FBIS DAILY REPORT

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'ARAFAT: AREA WILL EXPLODE FOLLOWING 'FAKE' PEACE

LD201215 Paris AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI in Arabic 19 Mar 79 PP 1 4 LD

[Interview granted by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to Marwan Hamadah and Nihad al-Mushnuq in Beirut--date not given]

[Text] "The area will explode after this fake peace." "Camp David has done away with Geneva; we are ready for anything through the United Nations."

With these words PLO Chairman and comrade in chief of the revolution Yasir 'Arafat underlined the Palestinian stand in an interview with AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI. This was his first interview since President Carter's visit to Egypt and Israel and the announcement that a "treaty" between them will be signed shortly.

It was natural that the dialog should begin with the Palestinian revolution commander in chief's views on the situation in the area following the expected signing of the treaty.

Abu 'Ammar said: The area will explode after this fake peace which President Carter is demanding from As-Sadat and Begin. I wish those men would recall what happened in the area following the signing of the truce agreement. The countries which signed the agreement experienced coups, people's uprisings and assassinations. This will be the fate of anyone who tries to tamper with the future of our Arab nation and the Palestinian people. As-Sadat must remember what happened to [late Egyptian Prime Minister] Ahmad an-Nuqrashi at the hands of the people.

It must be understood that the Arab nation will not accept the peac of the vanquished which Carter and Begin are trying to impose on us. President Carter's aides admitted on their return that the success they achieved was due to the concessions made over Palestinian rights. History will have no mercy for an Arab leader who would commit such a treason against the Palestinian people and will not forgive such an abominable crime on the part of the U.S. President, who boasts about human rights but ignores the Palestinian people's rights. The first steps in response will be taken at the Arab foreign ministers' meeting to be held in Baghdad in accordance with what was agreed upon at the Baghdad summit, in order to implement the secret and publicized measures agreed. For our part, we will insist on imposing an oil ban on Egypt, because we reject the supply of Arab oil to Egypt at a time when it is giving its Egyptian oil to Israel.

[Question] Did you discuss this subject with the Arab oil-producing countries and, if so, what was their reaction?

[Answer] We are discussing this demand with all the Arab as well as with the Islamic and friendly oil-producing states, but so far I have not received an answer. I sent messages to this effect yesterday (Wednesday) and I expect an answer at the forthcoming Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Baghdad.

[Question] What is the immediate Palestinian response to the agreement?

[Answer] You will notice that our people have not remained quiet since Carter came to the area, especially inside the occupied territories, where they are resisting IDF tanks during demonstrations of violent protest against this crime. As a result of this resistance, many have been injured or have fallen as martyrs. We also have a multi-faceted plan to face this conspiracy against our people, the future of our children and our Islamic and Christian holy places, which have been sold out in return for a handful of Sinai desert sand.

The Egyptian president is not alone; his partner in this crime is President Carter, who has defied the UN resolutions on Jerusalem and thus defied Islamic and Christian feelings. He was the first president to hold negotiations in Jerusalem, thus lending legality to the Israeli occupation of the holy city. He also attended a meeting at the Knesset in defiance of UN resolutions.

I wonder what guarantee there would be of any U.S. pledge to the world as a superpower after it has shown such disgraceful indifference to the United Nations and its resolutions?

[Question] What will the situation be if the United States takes a new initiative with the aim of bringing the Palestinians to participate in the talks?

[Answer] Nobody will accept this on the "Camp David" basis. Unfortunately, the U.S. Government now believes only in Camp David and is chasing a fake and temporary victory for the sake of an electioneering operation, because of which all the peoples' rights are being trampled.

[Question] What were the results of U.S. representative Paul Findley's mission following your recent meeting with him in Damascus?

[Answer] First, representative Findley is not charged with any particular mission by the U.S. administration. Findley, whom I respect highly because of his views and insistence on the Palestinian people's rights, telephoned my office yesterday (Wednesday), but I was unable to talk to him because I was in the south on account of the escalation of the Israeli shelling. Mahmud al-Labadi spoke to him from my office. Following this telephone conversation he made a statement on television in which, as usual, he was sympathetic and friendly to the Palestinians and defended their rights.

[Question] Why did you stop the dialog with the United States through certain Arabs?

[Answer] There is no dialog between us and the United States. But from time to time we hear their views through some of the Arab countries. Recently I received from the United States a threat to create many problems for the Palestinian revolution. I have mentioned this in two speeches. I am astonished that a superpower should resort to such methods. Let it be known to all that the Palestinian revolution is the one making threats. Let it also be understood that the Palestinians have nothing to lose. I would recall here a saying by an Algerian leader: "If I were a Palestinian and I were a bomb, I would have exploded myself in the world."

[Question] Is it true that the reason for this threat was your accusing U.S. presidential adviser Brzezinski of issuing the orders to assassinate the martyr Abu Hasan?

[Answer] I did not accuse individuals. I have accused U.S. intelligence. It is known that Israeli intelligence is a branch of U.S. intelligence just as SAVAK was another branch. Nobody can convince me that the Americans do not know all that is happening inside Israeli intelligence. How would they not know about a major operation against the life of a prominent Palestinian revolution leader? I think that this happened with the knowledge of U.S. intelligence. Any attempt to deny this would be an insult to our senses, which we will not accept.

It is enough for them that they are fighting the Palestinian people with all their means, so let them at least respect this people whose ability is recognized even in the United States. We have 5,000 Palestinian postgraduates working in U.S. universities and establishments.

[Question] It is being said that the Soviet Union promised you that it will not sign the SALT agreement until you obtain the Palestinian state. How true is this report?

[Answer] First, we are not supposed to discuss this subject on our part. What is between us and the Soviet Union is a friendly and militant relationship. It is known that the Soviet Union supports our cause and helps our people with various means in order to obtain their national rights. It is known that following my recent visit to the Soviet Union a Soviet-PLO joint statement was issued, which is something unprecedented in diplomatic and political custom.

[Question] Have you held contacts with the Soviet Union since President Carter's visit to the area and, if so, in what context?

[Answer] Contacts between us and the Soviet Union have been continuous from the first day of Carter's visit to the area. In fact, I have exchanged several messages with Soviet leaders on this subject.

[Question] Do you believe that the U.S. action in the area is being carried out without the Soviets' knowledge--which could mean a further deterioration in international detente?

[Answer] There is no doubt that the U.S. Government's action on this and other subjects is unilateral. By such action it is pulling the world away from international detente and bringing it closer to the brink of explosion.

[Question] It is being said that the PLO will not get involved in any settlement to which the Soviet Union is not a party. How true is this?

[Answer] We are for a just settlement that will guarantee our inalienable national rights. We supported the Soviet-U.S. statement when it was issued. We have also called for commitment to solving the Middle East crisis through the United Nations on the basis of Resolution 3236 and other resolutions that dealt with the Palestinian people's rights. This is because Resolution 242 does not deal with the Palestinian people but with the question of Palestinian refugees and was interpreted as such by the U.S.-Israeli working paper following Moshe Dayan's meeting with President Carter in 1977. Dayan then described the meeting as the "6-hour battle," during which he talked about Arab refugees and Jewish refugees. Such an interpretation is absolutely unacceptable.

Afterwards, Begin called us the "Arabs of the land of Israel." This man who came from Poland calls us the "Arabs of the land of Israel." But I would tell him that if Hitler remained, then he would also remain; if Smith succeeds, he will also succeed. Nothing that is against the course of history will remain. The Arab has been told: Take revenge after 40 years. "Too soon," he replied.

[Question] What would you do if King Husayn decides to join Camp David unilaterally?

[Answer] I believe that Jordan will not join "Camp David." Rather it will remain steadfast. Jordan yesterday declared a definite stand in this regard. Talks between us and the Jordanian Government are continuing. Abu al-Lutf [head of PLO Political Department--Faruq Qaddumi] made a successful visit to Amman last week. Today (Thursday) a Palestinian delegation is visiting Amman.

It consists of brothers Zuhayr Muhsin, 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, Abu Mazin and 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya. Next week I will visit Jordan for a meeting with King Husayn in order to complete the talks between us. Everybody must understand that the Egyptian-Israeli agreement is not only aimed against the Palestinian people but also against Jordan, Lebanon and the entire Arab nation. The Egyptian president has opened the door to the Israeli usurer with all his commercial, economic and consumer service potential. In fact, I am afraid for the Egyptian people as a result of this conspiracy by which As-Sadat opened Egypt's doors to those dreaming of building an Israeli empire in our area. The Egyptian people's judgment and the judgment of history will be severe. The policeman's role which Carter is trying to create for Egypt and Israel will fail because the shah was stronger than both put together. But where is the imperial policeman now? He is lost and unable to find a place in the world to go. The Egyptian people are like their Nile--calm and attractive. But once the floods come they wash everything away.

[Question] Did the Egyptian Government hold any contacts with you after the beginning of Camp David's second stage:

[Answer] Despite all the Egyptian allegations, the Egyptian Government has not clarified, justified or explained its attitude since the visit to Jerusalem to this day. We for our part did not try to contact them despite the strong relations that existed between us before As-Sadat committed this crime.

[Question] Let us get back to Jordan. Are you now willing to go to settlement [talks] within a joint PLO-Jordanian delegation?

[Answer] On what basis? Geneva? Camp David has put an end to Geneva, and through his insistence on it, the U.S. President has not only wrecked Geneva but has also defied the international will and violated his agreement with all the parties, including the Soviet Union, which is a superpower.

But I would declare there and for the first time that we are ready for anything through the United Nations.

[Question] Brother Abu 'Ammar, the reaction to the expected signing of the peace agreement has been confined to the occupied territories, Lebanon and Kuwait (and Tehran, the commander in chief added). What is the attitude of the other Arab countries?

[Answer] There is Arab bewilderment at the Egyptian president's perpetration of this abominable crime. But everybody must know that the reaction is coming.

[Question] In your opinion, what would be the impact on Lebanon if the signing takes place?

[Answer] There is no doubt that they will try to create difficulties in Lebanon, whether along the borders or throughout the entire south or further in as well. This is because, after signing the treaty, Israel will be relieved on the western front and will concentrate all its forces on the northern and eastern fronts.

[Question] A final question about Iran. Will you be visiting it shortly and what is your evaluation of the situation there?

[Answer] Iran has become one of my principal stations. Is it not one of the confrontation states, as its new chief of staff has announced:

In my opinion, Ayatollah Khomeyni is in strong control of the situation despite the continued attempts to exaggerate certain attitudes and distort the Iranian revolution.

An example of this is the exaggeration of the women's demonstrations. I have received details of what happened because I am in daily contact with Tehran. First of all, Khomeyni and the other Ayatollahs did not make their instructions obligatory, as the Western press alleged. Second, with regard to the Western press protests against certain actions, we must look at what happened in Iran not as a military coup but as a revolution, similar to the French revolution and the October revolution, where a people armed only with its belief has been able to topple the imperial throne and its war machine which at one time was labeled the world's fifth power.

I know that Ayatollah Khomeyni is capable of dealing with matters together with the other political parties in a manner that would help further stabilize the Iranian revolution.

'ARAFAT INTERVIEWED ON POST-MIDEAST ACCORD PLANS

DW191245 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 19 Mar 79 pp 132-137 DW

[SPIEGEL staffer Elias and editor Hielscher interview with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in Beirut, date not given]

[Text] Spiegel: Mr 'Arafat, your warnings and threats have been to no avail; Egypt and Israel will sign the peace treaty proposed by U.S. President Carter.

'Arafat: This does not surprise us, for Carter's policy is nothing but a theater play with many acts. I just regret, and it makes me sick, that an Arab president, As-Sadat, of a great Arab country degrades himself so much and participates in this play. The agreement is a plot staged by Carter.

SPIEGEL: That is what you say.

'Arafat: I am not the only one who says that. The entire Arab nation had rejected the accords of Camp David already at the Baghdad Conference, and in Egypt proper there is opposition to these agreements. These are national forces--the Muslim Brotherhood, the Wafd party, the communists, the Nasirites.

SPIEGEL: Objections did come up in Egypt, true. The day after President Carter's arrival, journalist Mustafa Amin, who is friendly to As-Sadat, wrote: "Egypt has the option of exchanging the friendship of a neighbor against the enmity of the brothers." As-Sadat seemed to harbor similar reservations. Why does he finally sign after all?

'Arafat: I do not know his motives exactly. As-Sadat has plunged himself into an adventure and has become its captive. In addition, there is American pressure and finally, his psychic readiness to betray the Arab cause.

SPIEGEL: As-Sadat reckons that some Arab brothers will follow his example and ultimately will join the agreement with Israel--for instance, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

'Arafat: I do not believe that there is one single Arab politician who approves of As-Sadat's policy and follows it. But I do not deny that Egyptians, Americans, and Israelis will bring pressure to bear on certain Arabs, including certain Palestinians.

SPIEGEL: Palestinians in the occupied territories?

'Arafat: I do not want to go into detail, yet our adversaries probably believe that an occupied people will submit more readily. The leaders of western Jordan and Gaza, however, have issued a joint statement: They reject the so-called autonomy which is envisaged and insist that the PLO is the only legitimate representation of the people of Palestine.

SPIEGEL: You plan to call on Jordanian King Husayn. Do you plan to persuade him to allow the PLO now to attack Israel from his country?

'Arafat: My visit will serve the purpose of continuing the talks which I had with Husayn after the Bahdad conference together with al-Qadhdhafi. But some highly explosive strategic questions, too, need to be discussed between us.

SPIEGEL: In your opinion, hence, we are not any closer to peace in the Middle East?

'Arafat: On the contrary. The peace treaty between Egypt and Israel will not bring any peace. It is a Chamberlain peace, a Daladie peace. Just remember that many people in the world believed that peace was at th doorstep when Chamberlain came to Munich in 1938 to negotiate with Hitler. But you know what followed: The world war broke out. Carter's visit to this region was nothing more than Chamberlain's visit to Munich in 1938.

SPIEGEL: You consider Carter a dangerous man; and you fail to see that he wants peace?

'Arafat: I do not want to lament this for long. Carter has hatched the dangerous conspiracy against us. And this is how he will go down in the annals of our Arab history. He has trampled on the human rights, which he has so highly praised, when the rights of the Palestinians were at stake.

SPIEGEL: What is so bad about his ideas of a Middle East solution?

'Arafat: You cannot achieve peace by imposing Israeli and American terms on us Arabs. The autonomy offered the Palestinians is less than what Ian Smith is offering the black majority in Rhodesia. We Palestinians, who have a culture and civilization of a thousand years, are offered less than the Bantus. Today we Palestinians with our well-trained technicians are building up the Arab nation from the Atlantic to the gulf. And yet, Carter is throwing down to us an autonomy which we can only consider slavery. We will combat the Carter treaty with all means at our disposal.

SPIEGEL: The Palestinians have been fighting since 1948 and have not yet recovered one inch of ground. Could the treaty not perhaps offer them a chance after all? Israeli critics of the agreements on the West Bank and Gaza are saying that the PLO in the long run would get a platform from whence it could operate.

'Arafat: Would you accept such a treaty if you were in my shoes? Should we perhaps accept such an injustice because we are part of the Third World? The right to self-determination is independent of the number of years which one has spent fighting for it. The Algerians have been colonized for 130 years, but ultimately they kicked the French out. The Egyptians booted out their British colonial lords, and they will also boot out the Americans.

SPIEGEL: You see, the Palestinian problem as only a question of right and wrong. Can you not visualize any gradual solutions?

'Arafat: You do not seem to watch the statements by the Israelis. When Begin returned from the United States prior to the Carter trip he said: We have scored three victories--no to the Palestinian state; no to the PLO, no to the Palestinian rights. But we are not so weak that we must accept dictates. We shall fight, and fighting with us will be the Arabs, the Egyptians, the nonalined countries; fighting with us is the Islamic world, the socialist world, the people of Persia.

SPIEGEL: The development in Persia gave you great impetus. For with the downfall of the shah, you declared, the ring around the Palestinians has been crushed.

'Arafat: The Americans and the Israelis assigned the shah a specific role. He was to play gendarme in this part of the world in order to enforce the results of Camp David. The Persians, the Israelis and the Egyptians were supposed to form a ring around the Palestinians and our Syrian brothers. The shah was to control Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and the gulf states so that the Iraqi Army, above all, remained tied up by the Persians.

SPIEGEL: At the time of Camp David, the shah had already been hurt too hard to assume this role.

'Arafat: Well, he cannot do it anymore now, anyway. Since the revolution in Iran, Iraq can throw its army fully into the battle against the Zionist enemy. And there is no Persian pressure anymore on Saudi Arabia and the gulf states. On the contrary, Iran's new chief of the General Staff regards his country now as a confrontation state against Israel. Thus the ring around us has been crushed.

SPIEGEL: But As-Sadat's Egypt is against you.

'Arafat: Yes, indeed. We lost at the western front of Egypt, yet we gained instead a strategic depth from Beirut to eastern Persia.

SPIEGEL: During your visit to Persia you said: "By, By, America." Do you intend to chase the Americans out of the entire region?

'Arafat: Yes, and I repeat this once more. This point will be reached, for despite its great power, the United States cannot do anything against the will of the peoples. Carter cannot trample on the Arab nation just to gain votes for his new presidential campaign. Who, for example, would have believed that the shah of Persia would topple? And yet, the strong will of a nation has always been the best weapon for victory--stronger than guns.

SPIEGEL: Your Palestinians helped the opposition against the shah. What do you now expect in return from the Persians?

'Arafat: The only thing I now want from Persia is that the revolution consolidates. For it is inherent in the nature of the matter that the revolutionaries have problems to cope with. Once they have accomplished that, they will hear from us. For we Palestinians and the Iranians have many goals in common.

SPIEGEL: During the shah era you helped the Iranian resistance fighters morally and politically, and with training. Now the Iranians might thank you for this help and give you money for financing your plans.

'Arafat: You cannot worm anything out of me. I will talk about that only when the Persians have consolidated their revolution for good.

SPIEGEL: The Persians have already discontinued their oil delivery to Israel. Did you ask them to do that?

'Arafat: No, I did not demand that. The Persians had made their decision already before my visit to Tehran. It is very important to know that. But after I had arrived, it was declared officially that Persia now is a confrontation state.

SPIEGEL: Islam was the main force of the Persian revolution. How do you explain its revitalization in Persia and in other states?

'Arafat: This is attributable to the fact that religion plays a different role in this region than in your country. Our priests generally had been reformers and progressive men who often revolted against tyrants. And do not forget that the Middle East is the cradle of the three monotheistic religions, the Jewish creed, Christianity and Islam.

SPIEGEL: Since Khomeyni's victory in Persia, you have been mentioning Islam very often in connection with the Palestinian revolution. A Christian Lebanese deputy, August Bakhos, who sympathizes with you, asked with concern: "Did the Palestinian revolution give up the dream of a secularist state where Christians, Muslims, and Jews could live together peacefully?"

'Arafat: Stop that; it is laughable and stupid. When I was in Persia I said officially and expressly that we want to build democratic Palestine with Muslims, Christians and Jews. Why don't you acknowledge that instead of just mentioning the complaint of Deputy Bakhos? That is a distortion of facts.

SPIEGEL: But you mentioned Islam in Persia.

'Arafat: I do not want to contest that I spoke of the Islamic revolution when I was in Iran. But in Cuba I also spoke of the communist revolution. I consider the imputation that I have been stressing Islam as a distortion of facts. In doing this, one wants to discredit the results of my visit to Iran.

SPIEGEL: Must not every progressive person be worried by certain phenomena of the Iranian revolution? There is the fact that women must wear veils again. Could you imagine Leila Khalid, the intellectual highjacker of a plane, or other emancipated Palestinian women wearing viels?

'Arafat: First, Khomeyni said that this was no serious problem of the Persian revolution and that it was intentionally inflated. Second, he condemns fanatics who want to forcibly make women wear veils. I consider your statements about Khomeyni as part of a malicious Western campaign against the Iranian revolution. Do you just see such secondary phenomena of the Persian revolution? Do you refuse to acknowledge the fact that the shah's terrible apparatus of oppression has disappeared once and for all, that tens of thousands of tortured people have been released? Did you ever denounce illiteracy, or the crimes of SAVAK?

SPIEGEL: We did that indeed.

'Arafat: But when the revolution broke out, the Western press began to agitate against the revolution. What you are depicting now is a distorted picture of what I have seen myself in Persia. Backward customs exist also in some German villages, and with regard to veiled women, some of them have been bearing arms and fighting the tanks of the shah. You ought to see the noble gestures of the new Iran Government: It withdrew its troops from the Sultanate of Oman so as not to be considered an aggressive state, and Iran quit CENTO.

SPIEGEL: What consequences must be drawn by conservative states such as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from Persian developments? Are they also threatened?

'Arafat: Come now; that is nonsense. America tries to stir up the matter after the revolution to make the states in that region feel insecure. It sends ships from the Philippines to the Gulf of Arabia; Secretary of Defense Brown came, trying to set up a new military alliance on the ruins of the CENTO pact; the Americans were fanning the conflict in Yemen. But these actions are just aimed at creating insecurity among these countries. After my stay in Persia, I visited these states, telling them that they have nothing to fear from the Iran revolution. The Tehran government stated that it wants to have friendly relations with all Arab states.

SPIEGEL: The situation in the region is tense. Can Europe contribute something to the solution of these problems?

'Arafat: Europe must play a part because it has economic and political interests in that region. The Europeans speak of their security, but this security is linked with our security. You must realize how dangerous it is when the American administration is planting mines in that region. The explosions will not just hit us but also the Europeans. It is high time for you to tell the Americans that they ought to stop playing with fire.

SPIEGEL: And the Germans? What do you expect from the Federal Republic?

'Arafat: Your attitude vis-a-vis our revolution is the most backward in Europe.

SPIEGEL: How's that?

'Arafat: Has one of your politicians the civil courage to say one critical word against Israel? I would like to hear just one sentence coming from a German mouth: "We condemn the occupation policy of the Israelis." The Israelis say that the Nazis committed crimes with regard to them. That is right, but we pay for your fault. You saw to the economic stability of Israel; you built arms industries; and you supported Israel politically. You are still doing it. Can you tell me how much the German taxpayer with his diligence and work has paid to the Israelis in the way of restitution?

SPIEGEL: That is a problem of the German past we can hardly discuss with you. But maybe you have also heard how deeply millions of Germans were moved by the American television series "Holocaust."

'Arafat: How can you accept something like that? Why the new discussion? Why the intellectual occupation? DER SPIEGEL is also riding on that wave, publishing a series on concentration camps. As if only the Jews have suffered and millions of other people do not count. Palestinians are suffering and dying daily because of Zionist occupation. During last year's invasion of Lebanon the Israelis used prohibited arms such as cluster bombs and napalm against our people. American experts used us as guinea pigs for their new secret arms.

SPIEGEL: Even if that were true, you could not compare it with the systematic annihilation of Jews by the Nazis.

'Arafat: At any rate, we did not commit a holocaust vis-a-vis the Jews. It is only regrettable that we must now foot the bill for the crimes committed by others. I think I have the right to ask the German people how long this will continue. How long does it plan to support the Israelis, thus prolonging the suffering of the Palestinian people? One more thing about the Holocaust series: It was a planned show.

When the Zionists noted that sympathies for them were deteriorating and that the mask was falling from their faces, they began to stage that show. They wanted to regain part of the lost sympathies. Digging up the past was planned as a means of blackmail.

SPIEGEL: This is the way you see it; for us it is dealing with a chapter of our history many people had ignored. Let us get back to the present. What will you undertake after Carter's successful Mideast mission?

'Arafat: The Palestinian National Council decided to intensify military actions against the Israelis.

SPIEGEL: In the occupied areas, or elsewhere too?

'Arafat: I speak of actions against the Israelis in our occupied homeland.

SPIEGEL: Not against Israeli targets in Europe, for instance?

'Arafat: You must address that question to others and not to me. I speak of military actions in my capacity as chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestinian armed forces.

SPIEGEL: Do you also plan to use the oil weapon?

'Arafat: We insist on our right to use all arms available. I demanded that As-Sadat must no longer get Arab oil.

SPIEGEL: He has more of his own oil now than Egypt can consume.

'Arafat: The situation will decide what arms will be used against whom and where. We have effective arms. You always say that our countries consist only of deserts and camels, but you forget that the desert consists of moving sand. This area is an area of political volcanoes.

SPIEGEL: And these volcanoes are supposed to blast Israel away?

'Arafat: I cannot predict the volume of eruptions because I am no geologist by profession but a civil engineer. But I can assure you of one thing: There will be an eruption of a volcano.

SPIEGEL: Against Egyptian President as-Sadat?

'Arafat: In 1948, the Egyptian people murdered Prime Minister Ahmad an-Nuqrashi because he approved a cease-fire agreement with the Zionists.

SPIEGEL: And now you think President as-Sadat's hour might strike?

'Arafat: I leave As-Sadat's fate to the Egyptian people.

SPIEGEL: Mr 'Arafat, we thank you for this talk.

ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL RIYAD DENIES RESIGNATION

NC201817 Doha QNA in Arabic 1718 GMT 20 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Jidda, 20 March--Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad has denied that he intends to resign his post at the next meeting of the Arab League Council, which will be held in Mogadiscio next Saturday. Riyad made this statement today to the newspaper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, in reply to some recent reports about his intention to resign.

ISRAEL, PLO TO EXCHANGE BODIES OF DEAD SOLDIERS

NC192117 Paris AFP in English 2052 GMT 19 Mar 79 NC

[Excerpts] Geneva, March 19, (AFP)--Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) are planning to exchange bodies of their soldiers killed in action, reliable Palestinian sources said here today.

Agreement in principles on the exchange had been reached through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the sources added.

They said the exchange would not take place in the immediate future because certain conditions laid down by both sides had not yet been agreed upon.

The PLO wants Israel to return all the bodies of slain Palestinians buried in secret locations to their families and in exchange is prepared to hand over the bodies of four Israeli soldiers killed on April 5 last year in south Lebanon, the sources said.

Observers expected drawn-out negotiations, saying Israel was unlikely to return the bodies of Palestinians to families residing in occupied territories out of fear that their burial could lead to demonstrations and create pilgrimage sites.

However, Israel was more likely to return bodies to families living in Lebanon or other Arab states, observers said.

PLO'S QADDUMI RECEIVES FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT

JN201658 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 20 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, received the French ambassador to Lebanon this afternoon. Their 1-hour meeting dealt with the present situation and the latest developments in the Arab region.

Brother Abu al-Lutf informed the French ambassador of the PLO's interest in developing relations with France to serve the cause of a just peace and achieve the national rights of the Palestinian people.

BAHRAIN

SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT

Arrival With Message

LD201442 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1225 GMT 20 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Manama--His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister, arrived in Manama at midday today on a short visit to Bahrain. His royal highness is carrying a message from His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to his brother, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the sister state of Bahrain.

Amir, Foreign Minister Meeting

JN201527 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1448 GMT 20 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Manama, 20 March--The amir of Bahrain, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, today received Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal, who conveyed to him a message from King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the Saudi monarch, on bilateral relations and the latest developments in the present Arab situation.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah and Saudi ambassador to Bahrain 'Abd al-Rahman al-Qadi.

Departure Statement

JN201847 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1820 GMT 20 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Manama, 20 March--Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Manama this evening for Riyadh following a brief visit of several hours to Bahrain.

In a statement to the Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY prior to his departure, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said: During my brief visit to Bahrain I conveyed a message to Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah related to relations between the two countries and the current Arab situation. We also discussed matters related to the gulf area and current developments in the Arab region, particularly the Middle East issue.

The Saudi minister said that such contacts are dictated by the nature of relations between the two countries to coordinate efforts on all levels, particularly political ones. He added that this coordination is naturally continuing between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, especially at the stage through which the Arab nation is passing. It will be recalled that the Saudi foreign minister met today with Bahraini counterpart Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah and reviewed with him bilateral relations as well as the situation in the gulf area and Arab region, particularly the Middle East issue and international issues in general.

KUWAIT

SAUDIS, KUWAIT TO USE BAGHDAD DECREES IF TREATY SIGNED

JN210537 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 21 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait--It was learned from a well-informed source in Kuwait yesterday that the Kuwaiti Government has instructed the responsible authorities to adopt the necessary measures to implement the resolutions of the ninth summit conference in Baghdad against the Egyptian regime immediately upon the signing of the peace treaty with Israel.

The Finance Ministry has been instructed to cease Kuwaiti financial aid to the Egyptian Government--aid decided upon after the Arab summit conferences in Khartoum and Rabat--immediately upon the ratification of this treaty.

It has also been learned from an Arab source in Kuwait that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has reiterated its complete adherence to the Baghdad summit's resolutions, which will be implemented if As-Sadat signs this treaty. The same source pointed out that the Saudi position has been conveyed to all the Arab countries.

JORDAN MINISTER OF STATE DELIVERS MESSAGE, DEPARTS

LD201516 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait--Jordanian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hasan Ibrahim left Kuwait today after having delivered a message to the amir of Kuwait from King Husayn of Jordan. The message concerns the current developments in the Arab region in the light of the agreement reached by Egypt and Israel to sign a unilateral peace treaty. Hasan Ibrahim arrived in Kuwait yesterday from Bahrain after having delivered a similar message to Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah.

SAUDI ARABIA

FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS FROM BAHRAIN VISIT

LD201704 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh--Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal this evening returned from Manama following a brief visit to Bahrain. During this visit, his highness conveyed to the amir of Bahrain, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, a message from His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

JORDAN'S KING HUSAYN BEGINS 2-DAY VISIT

JN211228 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn arrived in Riyadh this afternoon on 2-day visit to Saudi Arabia for talks with His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and high-ranking Saudi officials. Talks will deal with the latest political developments in the area.

His Majesty King Khalid led those who received His Majesty King Husayn at the airport. His majesty was also received by Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Second Deputy Prime Minister Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

His Majesty King Husayn is accompanied by an official delegation comprising His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn Husayn; His Highness Faysal ibn Husayn; Prime Minister Mudar Badran; Chief of the Royal Court Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, Minister of Court 'Amir Khammash, and Chief Aide de Camp and His Majesty's military secretary Staff Lt Gen Muhammad Idris.

In a statement to SNA, Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf said that His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Saudi Arabia is aimed at coordinating the two countries' stands in the spirit of mutual confidence and brotherhood that binds the two great monarchs and the two fraternal peoples.

He added that the circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing require solidarity and agreement on means of facing the foreign dangers. His Majesty King Husayn left Amman this morning. He was seen off at Amman airport by Prince Muhammad, Crown Prince Hasan, the presidents of the Senate and the National Consultative Council, the chief chamberlain, the ministers, the acting commander in chief of the Jordanian armed forces and chief of staff and several officials. The Saudi ambassador left aboard the same plane. A royal decree has been issued appointed 'Abd as-Salam al-Majali the acting prime minister.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS REAFFIRMS ATTITUDE ON MIDEAST ISSUE

LD192038 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers this evening held a session chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister. The meeting ended at 2045 today.

Minister of Information Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani said later that the Council reviewed the attitude of the kingdom on the Middle East issue. It affirmed that the attitude of the kingdom is firm and premanent and remains as it was--that is, to seek right, justice and peace for the entire issue, and that security and peace will not be realized except through complete withdrawal from all the occupied Arab areas, including holy Jerusalem, and granting the Palestinian people their legitimate right to self-determination.

The Council stressed that the kingdom looks forward to a comprehensive solution within the Arab framework, and that we are fully convinced that all resolutions that aim at resolving the issue should be within the framework of Arab legality which is decided by the summit conference, the information minister added. Thus, we are committed to these resolutions and are anxious to implement them. Our aim is to reach a just and lasting peace which is based on right.

MIDEAST PEACE DEPENDENT ON PALESTINE ISSUE

LD191430 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Mar 79 LD

[Hashim 'Abduh Hashim commentary]

[Text] Once more, the kingdom has reiterated that the peace, security and stability of the region can only be attained through the solution desired by the Muslim and Arab nations and the Palestinian Arab people. Such a peace must be comprehensive and just. Peace represents a quest for stability and this can only be achieved through a collective, unanimous acceptance of the principles which create an atmosphere conducive to stability and restore to the region the calm it lost and the security to which it aspires and the tranquility it has always sought.

As it continues its efforts to achieve this end and as it works to create the opportunities for such a peace, the United States fully realizes that the people of the region are in dire need of a just, comprehensive and durable peace.

But the question is: How can such a peace be attained? Once more, the kingdom has reiterated that a peace of such magnitude must first be approved by the three primary parties which are:

1. The Islamic world, to which the Palestine question is one of the principal issues and a part of the wider mission of retrieving the holy sanctities, the liberation of the land and the establishment of justice;
2. The Arab world, by virtue of the organic interdependence of the issues involved and by virtue of the fateful character of the pending issues and their influence on the future of the nation and of the world;
3. The Palestinian people, as a concerned party with basic rights at stake who want to exercise these rights like all other peoples of the world; to be respected in their territory and to feel proud of their long and glorious history; to interact with the other peoples who believe in the justice of their cause and their legitimate rights to sovereignty and independence, and to retrieve what they lost and away from which they have lived destitute for so long.

The Saudi Arabian Kingdom has always calmly yet firmly adhered to the following adage: Peace is not easily attainable by wishes only; work for peace will always be hard and the road to it will remain long, and the continuation of the dialog and opportunities for detente and understanding should be continually sought and are the objective which should occupy a place of priority in the efforts of us all.

Such a way will be a practical means which could in the end lead us to what we are working to achieve. The Arab demands are clear and the Arab and Islamic rights are unambiguous. All these factors underline the importance of our opening the road for more serious, sincere work and for more searching and exploration with the hope of finding positive and effective solutions.

The visit to the region by American Presidential Adviser Brzezinski must have dispelled many ambiguities, provided much clarification and new indications, and reflected common convictions that any peace that fails to take all aspects of the matter into consideration cannot be the desired peace; and it must have shown that constructive, sincere work and the comprehension of all current factors dictate that all efforts exerted in this regard should realize the hopes and dreams of the peoples of the region.

The time has gone when the parties concerned dealt with the issue in a tense manner. The opportunity now prevails for calm, tranquil, insistent and sincere work to attain what we want and what we all seek. The sensitive character of the present time and the difficulty of the options represent a hard test for the will of this nation, its vigilance and ability to act without confusion and to prevent more losses or the enemy making new gains in a climate of confrontation and clashes of opinion.

Undoubtedly, the Arab nation is capable of reconciling its insistence on its full rights with the internal preservation of its unity for the good of its peoples and to avoid any new setbacks which might result from any irresponsible action it might take now.

COOPERATION WITH EGYPT REPORTEDLY TO CONTINUE

LD211002 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0714 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpts] Kuwait--A Kuwaiti paper today reports that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the other Arabian Gulf countries have agreed to maintain some form of political and economic cooperation with Egypt (?after) Egypt signs the proposed peace treaty with Israel. It has not been possible to obtain immediate comment on this report, which appears in AL-WATAN, quoting what the paper describes as informed political and diplomatic sources.

The paper says that Saudi Arabia and the other gulf countries have drawn up a "working paper formula" to be submitted to the Arab foreign ministers, who are expected to meet in Baghdad next Monday, one day after the signing of the peace treaty in Washington. Iraq called for this meeting yesterday to discuss sanctions to be imposed on Egypt. This is to implement the decisions adopted by the Arab summit conference held in Baghdad last November. AL-WATAN says that the working paper, which "has obtained" the approval of the states of the region, provides for continued political and economic dealing with Egypt in one form or another.

The newspaper quotes "sources closely linked to senior Saudi officials as saying that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the rest of the gulf countries will maintain (?minimum contacts) with Egypt." It goes on to add that they will retain the Egyptian consulates in them in the event of the closure of the Egyptian embassies and that these consulates "will definitely have the role of embassies with only the name changed."

UK'S RESPONSE TO OIL COMPANIES' PROFITEERING VIEWED

LD170328 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Mar 79 LD

[Husayn al-'Askari commentary]

[Text] The British Energy Secretary Anthony Benn has asked oil companies to stop selling their oil on the black market to obtain the world prices being offered as a result of the shortage of oil on the international market.

The international oil market recently has been a target of a blackmail by a number of oil companies which exploited the stoppage of Iranian oil supplies. This stoppage led to an increase in demand in relation to a limited supply, resulting in a price increase ranging between $6 and $7 per barrel. This is equal to nearly a 50 percent increase in the prices fixed by OPEC.

The increase by the oil companies produced serious results, especially in countries such as Britain, whose economy has been facing many problems. The British are worried lest the companies' price increase become strong justification for the oil exporting states to raise their price. This is particularly the case now, when a meeting will shortly be held by the exporting countries to discuss this matter and its effects on their revenue and the world economy, which still is going through abnormal circumstances. To prevent the companies from going further in selling part of their oil on the black market, the British Government has intensified its control over their sales. It threatened that deterrent measures will be taken if the companies do not respond. Among such measures is the imposition of a high tax on oil companies' profits earned as a result of raised prices. Also, the British Government has the right to stop the companies from selling part of 51 percent of their production on the free market and to force them to deal only with the government. Not only Britain suffers from this problem; many oil-importing countries face it. The resumption of Iranian oil exports last week, however, will gradually reduce the operations of some oil companies aimed at making unlawful profits.

SAUDIS READY TO BUY WEST BANK, GAZA CITRUS

LD201130 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 20 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh--It has been decided that the kingdom will back the request of the PLO and Jordan to the Arab League Council and to the main office for the boycott of Israel, to lift the ban imposed on citrus fruit produced by the occupied Gaza sector and the West Bank. The ban was previously imposed to prevent the infiltration of Israeli products.

This has been announced by Saudi Commerce Minister Dr Sulayman as-Sulayyim. He said: Controls and rules will be drawn up to prevent the infiltration of Israeli citrus fruits and products as a result of the ban being lifted. He went on to add that the kingdom has shown its readiness to agree to the request to purchase the citrus products of the Gaza sector and the West Bank as this step will enable Arab farmers in the occupied territories to stand fast and to continue to remain on their land and properties. The trade minister mentioned that the process of purchasing by the private sector in the kingdom will commence immediately after the Arab League Council announces its decision on the matter during its meetings in Mogadiscio next Saturday.

YEMEN--PDRY

CHAIRMAN ISMA'IL GRANTS INTERVIEW TO KUWAITI PAPER

NC201812 Doha QNA in Arabic 0902 GMT 20 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 20 March--'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium, has stated that the recent Yemeni developments are the result of the political crisis between both Yemens. He added that we cannot isolate these developments from the imperialist circles that are behind the tensions and war between both Yemens in order to deter them from establishing Yemeni unity.

In an exclusive interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN, which was published today, Isma'il denied that his country intends to bring in foreign troops, adding that the Yemeni people have the defensive capability to protect their national sovereignty. He stressed that what happened between both Yemens is a domestic issue that concerns them alone, adding that "this is why we did not ask for the support of the steadfastness states during these events." However, these states played a positive role in solving the problem, whether through the tripartite initiative or through the framework of the Arab League Council.

Isma'il said we will not allow any acts of sabotage or aggression against the regime, no matter from where they come. He expressed the hope that there would be no recourse to aggression and that the differences would be solved peacefully, which would serve the interests and unity of Yemen.

Isma'il affirmed that a peaceful, fraternal dialog between both Yemens is the way to democratically solve their problems--a solution that will achieve unity in light of the Cairo agreement and the Tripoli statement. He also affirmed his country's commitment to the policy of nonintervention in the domestic affairs of others and of mutual cooperation and good neighborliness.

Isma'il declared his country's support for the Democratic National Front [DNF] because it has logical and legitimate demands centering on political relaxation, granting of freedoms, release of detainees and holding of free elections, adding that this support springs from the belief that we are a single Yemeni people and not two states.

Concluding, Isma'il expressed the hope that the summit meeting due to be held in Kuwait between him and the YAR president will achieve the cherished target and usher in a new era for realizing Yemeni unity.

PLO SEEKS PDRY SUPPORT, FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

LD201650 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Mar 79 LD/EA

[Text] The representatives of the liberation movements and the progressive nationalist forces accredited to Aden have cabled brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, as follows:

We condemn and repudiate As-Sadat's treacherous course, which has culminated in abject surrender to the demands of the Israeli-American enemy, concessions and complete disregard for the legitimate Arab rights.

You have been a pioneer in resisting the renegades' course and trying to prevent him from implementing the conspiracy. Today, armed with the support of our Arab masses and the resolutions of the Baghdad conference, it will be your duty to shoulder your historic responsibility to apply immediately and creatively the pan-Arab resolutions, which will help put us in a practical position to resist the conspiracy.

We also ask you to support the PLO and open the borders to its fighters, giving them freedom of movement and mobilization for the principal cause of the Arabs--Palestine.

We stress the need for alliance with the anti-American camp as represented by the socialist camp, led by the friendly USSR.

YEMEN--YAR

PRESIDENT SALIH CHAIRS MEETING OF POLITICAL COMMITTEE

JN201738 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, presided over a meeting of the political committee this morning. Internal and external issues were reviewed during the meeting. The brother leader gave his instructions to the chairman and members of the political committee to continue their meetings.

PDRY CHIEF OF STAFF ARRIVES ON 21 MARCH

JN210858 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 21 Mar 79 JN

[Text] San'a', 21 March--PDRY Chief of Staff Lt Col Salih Abu Bakr Husaynun arrived here today on a short visit to the YAR. He was accompanied on the same aircraft by the leader of the Iraqi military delegation participating in the Arab military committee that was established by the emergency meeting of the Arab League Council in Kuwait to normalize relations between the two parts of Yemen.

Lieutenant Colonel Husaynun will meet with YAR Chief of Staff Lt Col 'Ali Salih ash-Shaybah as a continuation of their periodic meetings under the Arab military committees' supervision and in order to follow up implementation of the military agreement reached by the two sides.

The INA correspondent in San'a' has learned that Husaynun will meet with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to fix the final arrangements for the two presidents' meeting in Kuwait on 28 March 1979.

PRIME MINISTER KHALIL REACTS TO BEGIN STATEMENTS

NC201415 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1408 GMT 20 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 20 March--Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil has stated that Mr Begin's statements commenting on Khalil's speech before the parliamentary body of the National Democratic Party are considered an inappropriate beginning [istihlalan ghayr muwaffaq] to exploit an era in which we hope everybody will work toward establishing sound bases for a just and permanent peace in the Middle East, as well as a comprehensive settlement.

The prime minister added that Begin's statements conflict with the basis of peace agreed upon at Camp David and also spoil the atmosphere which we hope will prevail during the signing of the treaty.

The prime minister said that Israel's withdrawal to Egypt's international borders in a faithful application of UN Security Council Resolution No 242 in all its principles and aims, foremost of which is the inadmissibility of the seizure of lands by war, a principle which applies to all the occupied territories, including Arab Jerusalem.

Dr Khalil explained that as regards the Palestinian issue, the Camp David framework clearly stipulates the need to solve all aspects of the Palestinian problem. It also stipulates the need for such a solution to take into consideration the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Therefore, the Palestinian people will determine their future in the way stipulated in the agreement.

On this occasion Dr Khalil also affirmed Egypt's firm stand on the need for Israel's withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem, as well as the need for achieving the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

MUBARAK IN BONN, CRITICIZES BEGIN STATEMENTS

NC202037 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Vice President Husni Mubarak has criticized today's statements by Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin in which he said that Israel would not withdraw to the 1967 borders or accept the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza.

In a statement to journalists before leaving Bonn for Brussels, Vice President Mubarak expressed astonishment at Begin's statements and asked whether these statements, which came 3 days before the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, would serve the signing of the agreement.

The vice president noted that the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty is just the beginning of the peace process in the Middle East and said we realize that the road ahead is still difficult. He explained that Egypt believes that the upcoming negotiations on the future of Gaza and the West Bank are the most important element in the comprehensive and permanent peace that President as-Sadat is working for, and added that the Arab states that have rejected the Egyptian initiative will eventually comprehend President as-Sadat's goal. He said we do not understand those governments that are doing nothing while simultaneously critizing Egypt's initiative.

Vice President Mubarak noted that the FRG and other European states will play an important role in the peace process, particularly in the negotiations for determining the future of the Palestinians.

MUBARAK, IN BRUSSELS, ON SAUDIS, 'ARAFAT, BEGIN

NC202246 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2118 GMT 20 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Brussels, 20 March--Vice President Husni Mubarak held a press conference today at the Brussels Guest Palace, where he discussed the latest developments in the Middle East situation and the details of the peace agreement.

At the outset of his press conference, Vice President Mubarak was asked whether he was optimistic following his visit to Saudi Arabia, particularly in the wake of reports that the visit was stormy and that Saudi Arabia and Jordan disapproved of the peace agreement.

He said: I am very optimistic in the wake of my visit to Saudi Arabia. I am astonished that the meetings I held there are being described as stormy. On the contrary; they were friendly meetings.

Mubarak noted that it is impossible to put Saudi Arabia and Jordan in the same category. He explained: We have called on King Husayn to join the Palestinians and assume his responsibility toward the West Bank and Gaza. If King Husayn joins us, all well and good; if he doesn't, then this is his own concern. I want to affirm that our negotiating team will include Palestinians.

Husni Mubarak added that those who want to bring the situation to a standstill will not stop us from forging ahead on our own road toward achieving peace and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Asked about his talks in Belgium, Husni Mubarak said: I met with His Majesty King Baudouin this afternoon, and I will meet with the foreign minister tonight. As far as I know, Belgium has always supported the steps that are being taken toward peace.

In response to a question of statements by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Mubarak said: 'Arafat talks a great deal, but we do not attach much importance to what he says.

About the statements Israeli prime minister Menahem Begin made in the Knesset today, the vice president said: I do not know why Begin makes such statements. Everybody knows that the treaty calls for Israel's withdrawal from the territories it occupied in 1967. Therefore, has Begin changed his mind and turned against peace? We will be signing a peace treaty with him in 3 or 4 days. The question now is: Does Begin want real peace or not? If so, then he should stop making such statements.

In concluding his press conference, Vice President Mubarak explained: The Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty provides for the establishment of autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza so that the Palestinians can achieve their legitimate rights. Our position on this matter is clear, unambiguous. Mr Begin's stand on the establishment of true autonomy will be a test of his desire to achieve real peace.

FOREIGN MINISTRY TO REPLY TO BEGIN STATEMENTS

NC201534 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1504 GMT 20 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 20 March--After leaving the Cabinet this afternoon, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil was asked by newsmen about Egypt's reaction to Israeli Prime Minister Begin's statements on East Jerusalem. Dr Khalil replied that the Foreign Ministry will be preparing a statement concerning this matter. Asked if this [presumably Begin's remarks] will affect the signing of the treaty, Dr Khalil replied: I don't think so.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DENOUNCES BEGIN STATEMENTS

NC211242 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Mar 79 NC

[Text] The People's Assembly held a session under the chairmanship of its speaker, Dr Sufi Abu Talib. The assembly denounced the recent statements by Israeli Prime Minister Begin. The assembly speaker said: Egypt is capable of defending Arabism. These statements completely conflict with the draft treaty to be concluded between Egypt and Israel.

KHALIL, EILTS DISCUSS PLANS FOR AS-SADAT'S U.S. VISIT

NC201332 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 20 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 20 March--Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil received U.S. Ambassador to Cairo Hermann Eilts this afternoon. After the meeting, the ambassador said that the discussions dealt with the final arrangements of President Anwar as-Sadat's forthcoming visit to the United States. It is known that Dr Mustafa Khalil will accompany President Anwar as-Sadat on this visit, during which the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel will be signed.

U.S. UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE COOPER LEAVES CAIRO

NC201620 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1538 GMT 20 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 20 March--U.S. Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Richard Cooper and his delegation left Cairo for Tokyo today after a 4-day visit to Egypt. Cooper held talks with senior Egyptian economic officials on bilateral economic cooperation in the coming period, particularly in the fields of food security projects, basic commodities and rural electrification. He was seen off at the airport by U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts.

CAIRO VOICE OF ARABS DISCUSSES BENEFITS OF PEACE

LD181708 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Mar 79 LD

['Ismat Ibrahim commentary]

[Text] As we approach peace in the area, some might ask what does peace mean to us here in Egypt and to our brothers throughout the Arab homeland and indeed to the whole world around us, the world to which we are bound by ties nobody can ignore.

From the start we say that, though peace puts an end to the era of wars and bloody conflicts, it is not merely an ending of such wars and conflicts or the laying down of arms and resorting to reason and logic. The peace we seek means many things to us and to others.

To Egypt, peace means tranquility, security and stability. It means that the period of sacrifices, for which we gave many of our children and our wealth, has ended and that a new period when the people, the creative Egyptian people, can achieve the prosperity they aspire to, and the development they look forward to has begun.

For some time, the Egyptian people have been looking constantly for an opportunity to embark on the development of their resources and to devote their creative capabilities to bringing happiness to themselves and to the future generations alike and to make a greater contribution toward the development of their Arab nation.

Nobody, in Egypt or outside it, can fail to realize that the huge efforts exerted by Egypt throughout the past 30 years, which are the years of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the armed confrontation it had with Israel, have exhausted its capabilities. These efforts have devoured energies, sweat and money which, had they been devoted to development, Egypt would now be one of the rich and advanced countries. We do not say this as a favor to others, because to do this was our destiny and our role. We only say this to confirm that these efforts which had been devoted to war, if devoted to development, would have achieved much for the Egyptian people.

However, we have to say that prosperity cannot be achieved overnight, or happen so suddenly following the attainment of peace. It will come gradually and through further efforts, sweat and patience.

Peace does not mean stability for the Egyptian people alone, but for the Arab people. Stability to the Arab people will mean that the Arabs will be able to devote their efforts to the development of their countries' huge resources. Should this be achieved, they would become among the strongest and richest entities in the world. For the Arab nation does not only possess oil, which is a huge strategic wealth. Oil is not the most precious thing the Arabs possess. The Arab nation has potentials which would insure self-sufficiency for it in all fields. The Arab nation has vast agricultural lands which await cultivation and thereby produce the seeds of life for all, inside and outside the Arab homeland. It possesses minerals which it could use in all sorts of industries, the finest and most productive industries. It has also all the capital it needs and all the trained technological capabilities it requires to make all these dreams a reality and to bring to the Arab people the life of security and prosperity they dream about.

If the Arab nation has devoted a large section of its efforts to the military confrontation with Israel, this confrontation has had other negative aspects on the Arab presence and expectations of a better future. Instead of acting as a rallying point for the Arab forces in the past, this confrontation helped to sow the seeds of discord and rift among the ruling Arab regimes. This is because some of these ruling regimes have used this confrontation as a trading commodity and have raised the slogan of the Palestine issue as a cover for their work to achieve their own private ambitions.

When peace reigns and the Palestinian people achieve their rights, these flimsy regimes will collapse automatically because they will lose the props on which they build their existence, namely, the hollow slogans.

As to the world around us, it will become free from the center of conflicts which disturbed it and which posed a threat to world peace and security. The whole world used to panic whenever war broke out in the Middle East for fear that other parties might get involved in this blazing conflict and thereby make the world suffer big losses. Indeed, the world still recalls the huge losses it suffered as a result of the closing of the Suez Canal for 7 whole years--for the canal is one of the vital routes of international trade.

Egypt's strategic condition and the wealth in its soil is a focus of international interests which it is the duty of all to protect. It was for this that the whole world has supported Egypt's efforts for peace and firmly condemned all attempts to impede this peace.

There is yet one final word which we must state here: Egypt wants peace for itself, the Arabs and the whole world for the sake of justice, right and humanity.

PAPERS COMMENT ON ISRAELI KNESSET DEBATE OF PEACE TREATY

NC210726 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Mar 79 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "So the Peace Atmosphere May Not Be Spoiled," AL-AHRAM editorially refers to Menahem Begin's statement that Israel wishes to look to the future rather than live in the past, and his description of the peace treaty as piercing the wall of hatred which has existed between Israel and the Arab states for the past several years.

The paper comments: What Begin has said shows a desire for the peace which President as-Sadat has sought since his historic initiative in visiting Jerusalem and which President Carter sought in his courageous visit to Cairo and Jerusalem under the most difficult circumstances which the negotiations had reached. Nevertheless, what Begin said before the Israeli Knesset yesterday while talking about the peace treaty is totally inconsistent with his other statement at the same meeting that Israel will not withdraw to the 1967 borders and will not agree to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

The paper affirms that these remarks by Begin, as Dr Mustafa Khalil said in his comment on them as soon as he was told about them, totally contradict the basis of peace on which agreement was reached. These remarks, in fact, spoil the atmosphere which must prevail when the agreement is signed. Begin knows that Israel's withdrawal to the 1967 borders is a faithful implementation of Security Council Resolution 242, in the framework of which a general principle is applied--the principle of the impermissiblity of seizing territory through war. The application of this principle has begun in Sinai. As for the Palestinian issue, the Camp David framework agreements clearly provide for solving all aspects of the Palestinian problem.

The paper draws attention to the fact that the Israeli leaders apparently like to make statements. They are expected to make contradictory statements. What is important, however, is what the signed agreements provide for, albeit the most important thing is the spirit with which the peace process should be implemented in order to really pierce the wall of hatred which has existed between Israel and the Arab states.

Under the headline "The Israeli Knesset and the Peace Obligations," AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The Israeli Knesset began its debate of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty after it was approved by the Begin Cabinet. The paper points out that the treaty is not merely provisions; the Knesset is called upon to take into consideration what we may term "the peace obligations." The treaty gave Israel more than it ever dreamed of. It gave Israel recognition of its existence and of its secure borders; it approved of considering Israel an accepted member which can coexist peacefully within the Middle East area.

The paper points out that what Israel has acquired through the peace treaty makes it imperative that it fulfill basic obligations under peace conditions. Peace demands that Israel abandon its dreams and ambitions and its old vision of itself as a state above other states in the area or as a distinctive state, and prove its good will after 30 years in which the Arabs have suffered from its expansionist ambitions and its attempts to impose its aims by force.

Concluding its article the paper says that peace demands that Israel be a regular member of the area, not a policeman, and behave in a manner that confirms its true interest in safeguarding and maintaining the peace.

NEW NATIONAL MOVEMENT WARNS AS-SADAT AGAINST TREATY

JN200956 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 20 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 20 March--The Egyptian As-Samidun [Steadfast] movement has vehemently attacked As-Sadat's treason on the pan-Arab issue and his submission to U.S. imperialism and its ally Israel.

The movement recently released two statements that are published in the newspaper AS-SAFIR here today, warning the Egyptian ruler against signing the peace treaty with the Zionist entity and threatening that his fate will be similar to that of the shah of Iran.

The movement called on the Egyptian people to topple As-Sadat and his treasonous regime. The movement told As-Sadat: "Your fate will be like that of the shah who, just as you, challenged his people's patriotic feelings--but he collapsed as a result of the people's uprising."

GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY CONSIDERING REFERENDUM ON TREATY

LD201535 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Mar 79 p 1 LD

[ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau report]

[Text] Cairo--Islamic societies of the various Egyptian universities held a conference yesterday, Monday, in Imam Muhammad 'Abduh Hall in Al-Azhar to discuss the peace treaty with Israel.

The Ministry of Interior approved the holding of the meeting on the condition that students would not go out and demonstrate.

Several wallposters criticizing the treaty appeared in Cairo University. Some students in Alexandria University tried to stage a demonstration but were prevented by officials.

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that several meetings have been held between four opposition parliamentary blocs in the People's Assembly to coordinate their stands toward the peace treaty with Israel. These blocs are:

1--The Islamic bloc in the assembly whose most prominent members are Shaykh Salah Abu Isma'il, chairman of the assembly's Religious Affairs Committee, and 'Adil 'Abid, representative of Al-Mahallah al-Kubra and a member of the Muslim Brotherhood.

2--The bloc that consists of the former Wafd Party, the most prominent of whose members are Muhammad Hilmi Murad and Ahmad Nasir, deputy for Umbabah.

3--The third bloc is the National Front Party, which is in the process of formation. Its most prominent members in the assembly are counsellor Numtaz Nassar and Dr Mahmud al-Qadi.

4--The fourth bloc represents the leftist trend headed by Khalid Muhyi ad-Din, former member of the Egyptian revolution command council and secretary general of the Nationalist Progressive Unionist Grouping Party.

All the four parliamentary groups are expected to vote against the peace treaty. But such opposition is expected to change nothing in the situation because the Nationalist Democratic Party led by President as-Sadat has 300 out of 360 seats in the People's Assembly.

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the authorities concerned are currently discussing the possibility of holding a public referendum on the Egyptian-Israeli treaty. The final decision on this matter will be taken during next week prior to President as-Sadat's departure for the United States to sign the treaty.

AL-AHRAM REPORTS ON GOVERNMENT ARMS DEAL WITH U.S.

NC200715 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2315 GMT 19 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 19 March--In Tuesday's edition AL-AHRAM reports that the value of the new Egyptian arms deal with the United States is great. The deal will include arming and equipping the mechanized infantry units with new and modern standard armored vehicles as well as with artillery of various calibers to meet the requirements of the artillery corps within the framework of the armed forces development plan.

The paper says that Egypt has requested the United States to supply it with large numbers of phantom planes, various missiles and electronic war gear. AL-AHRAM adds that the Egyptian arms deal will be financed through long-term loans to Egypt and through U.S. aid to Egypt.

The paper discloses that the U.S. working team will study the lists of Egyptian arms before arriving in Cairo so that effective and fruitful bilateral discussions may be held for the purpose of compiling the final list of the needs of Egypt in particular and of the area in general. The paper notes that the U.S. side has hinted that part of the arms may be delivered this year on the understanding that the remainder will be delivered within the coming years without delays like those that occurred with the C-130 and the F-5 planes deals.

Furthermore, AL-AHRAM emphasized that this arms deal will help speed up the development of the armed forces by filling part of their requirements. The armed forces have suffered from shortages of weapons, equipment and ammunition since the Soviet Union, Egypt's main arms supplier since the mid-1950's, ceased supplying Egypt.

AL-AHRAM says that the deal will include a U.S. commitment to provide ammunition and spare parts as well as the maintenance required for the equipment and arms. The Egyptian Armed Forces will send delegations and missions to the United States for training in the use of the new weapons and equipment. The paper affirms that the Armed Forces General Command will continue to use the Eastern equipment and arms in its possession because it is not yet time to get rid of these leftovers.

The paper explains that Egypt is signing a contract only for an arms deal without undertaking any political obligations, despite the fact that Egypt will continue its dialog with U.S. officials concerning security issues in the area in light of Egypt's previously declared stands, particularly in light of Egypt's forecasts, which events have proven correct.

AL-AHRAM asserts that Egypt will not be the only state to conclude such deals, because during U.S. Defense Secretary Brown's 10-day visit to the area, which took him to Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel and Egypt, he promised to respond to the applications for arms submitted by these states.

AL-AHRAM says that as far as Israel is concerned, it has submitted a list of arms and sophisticated military equipment worth $7.5 billion over the next 5 years.

AL-AKHBAR ASSAILS HUSAYN STAND ON PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

LD220923 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 18 Mar 79 p 6 LD

[Editorial: "King Husayn Misleads and Clowns"]

[Text] King Husayn of Jordan is once again harping on the "separate treaty" tune in describing the peace agreement. He even calls on "all the Arab nation" to face the great challenges resulting from this agreement. King Husayn also speaks about "restoring Palestinian rights."

We have long remained silent over King Husayn's statements in the hope that he would see reason and would stop such clowning. But he daily indulges in reiterating false allegations which he more than anybody else knows are of use even for local consumption.

What exactly does King Husayn want? Everybody knows about his secret meetings with Israeli leaders such as Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres. The latter disclosed this incident (his secret meeting with Husayn) but the king did not dare to issue even a formal denial. If there has been any leader in the Arab world seeking a separate solutions such as the "United Arab Kingdom," but he failed. He tried again following the October War during his talks with former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, but he failed. King Husayn did not realize then that the Jordanian front had been frozen because he rendered it completely ineffective before, during and after the October War.

Following the Rabat resolutions King Husayn completely washed his hands of the Palestinian problem because he was not pleased with the resolutions that placed the Palestinian people's fate in the hands of Palestinians and abolished the king's guardianship over them.

King Husayn continued to reiterate that he was not concerned with the Palestinian people's problems after the Rabat resolutions. Yet today he talks about restoring the Palestinian people's rights. When did King Husayn care for the Palestinians' rights? History's pages are black where mention is made of what he has done to the West Bank inhabitants during his rule.

During 1948-1967, the Palestinian people suffered under a tyrannical rule just as afterwards they suffered under Israeli occupation. King Husayn's Bedouin's behaved in the West Bank like an occupation force. His machine tried to buy off certain people in the West Bank with the aim of burying the whole Palestinian problem and turning the West Bank into an annex of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. It was the very Palestinian rights that he talks about that led to the biggest massacre of the Palestinian people in 1970 and which history knows as the "Black September Massacre" during which thousands of Palestinian men, women and children were killed by the heavy artillery of his Bedouin soldiers. These soldiers entered refugee camps and killed unarmed old people, women and children because they dared to give protection to the resistance organizations. The king took personal command of the "battle" to annihilate the Palestinians so that he could create conditions conducive to recovering the West Bank for the kingdom and not for the Palestinians.

While Egypt is struggling to recover the West Bank and Gaza for their Palestinian owners, King Husayn alleges that it is concluding a separate peace. But if the West Bank were restored so as to once again become a Jordanian province then this would be a comprehensive solution.

Since Husayn is now talking about Palestinian rights, why did he not give them such rights when he was in control of the West Bank? Why did he not simply try to help the Palestinians create an independent entity for themselves when the West Bank was not under Israeli occupation? For 19 years, during which Husayn was in control of the West Bank, he treated the Palestinians merely as a defeated people who must be subjected to occupation. Today Husayn talks about Palestinian rights, while yesterday Jordanian jails were full of hundreds of Palestinian politicians. This is proved by the fact that the Jordanian Government yesterday said that it had released 39 Palestinians. The rest are still in jail.

A modicum of sham: The Arab peoples' memory is not weak. The people are no longer ready to listen to humbug and trickery.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION MINISTER LEAVES FOR PARIS

NC210914 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0822 GMT 21 Mar 79 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 March--Minister of State for Economic Cooperation Jamal an-Nazir left Cairo for Paris this morning leading an Egyptian delegation on a 5-day visit to France during which he will attend the Paris conference on investments in Egypt to be held on Thursday and Friday.

GOVERNMENT, ARAB LEAGUE OFFICIALS LEAVE FOR MOGADISCIO

NC210916 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0824 GMT 21 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 2 March--Arab League Assistant Secretary General Muhammad Riyad left Cairo for Mogadiscio this morning to prepare for the meetings of the Arab League Council which will begin in the Somali capital this Saturday. The meetings will last 3 days and the discussions will deal with the developments of the situation in the Arab arena, the results of the Arab-European dialog and Afro-Arab cooperation.

Egypt's permanent representative to the Arab League Ambassador Tahsin Bashir has also left for Mogadiscio to attend these meetings.

It is recalled that the Arab states approved Somalia's request that these meetings be held in Mogadiscio.

NEW OIL DISCOVERY IN EASTERN DESERT REPORTED

NC201230 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Mar 79 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 20 March--The General Company for Petroleum had made a new petroleum discovery in the north Umm al-Yusr area in the eastern desert. Preliminary tests on this discovery indicate that the three wells--Nos 2, 3 and 5--which have already been drilled, will produce about 2,500 barrels daily. Other wells are being drilled to develop the field and increase its production.

IRAQ CALLS FOR ARAB FOREIGN, ECONOMY MINISTERS MEETINGS

JN201343 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 20 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 20 March--Iraq has called for two meetings of the Arab foreign and economy ministers in Baghdad between 27 and 29 March. An official source in the Iraqi Foreign Ministry has said that this call is in implementation of the ninth Arab summit conference held in Baghdad on 2 November.

The source added that in accordance with the summit conference resolutions, Iraq adheres to the call for convening two meetings of the Arab foreign and economy ministers immediately upon the signing of the separate agreement between the As-Sadat regime and the Zionist entity.

The source said the Iraqi Foreign Ministry has conveyed this call to the Arab League General Secretariat and to the Arab countries that participated at the Baghdad summit conference.

IRAQ SUPPORTS POSTPONEMENT OF ARAB LEAGUE MEETING

JN211121 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1103 GMT 21 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 21 March--Iraq has supported Libya's proposal for postponing the meeting of the Arab League Council in the Somali capital, Mogadiscio. This was stated today by Iraqi Foreign Ministry Undersecretary 'Abd al-Husayn al-Kajali, who said that Iraq supports postponement of the meeting until further notice.

It is recalled that the Arab League Council meeting was scheduled to be held in Mogadiscio next Saturday, 27 March 1979.

Yesterday Iraq called for an Arab foreign ministers meeting and another meeting of Arab foreign and economy ministers on 27 March 1979, in accordance with the Baghdad summit conference resolutions. The two meetings are expected to discuss implementation of the Baghdad summit resolutions on measures that will be taken against As-Sadat's regime when it signs the capitulationist agreement, which, it has been announced, will be signed next Monday.

ATH-THAWRAH WARNS ARABS TO PREPARE FOR 'PROTRACTED WAR'

JN211200 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1122 GMT 21 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 21 March--The paper ATH-THAWRAH has called on the Arab masses to prepare themselves for a "protracted war." In an article today the paper says that the Arab masses must turn any war that is begun by the Zionist enemy--which the enemy intends to be a limited war--into a war of liberation whose duration and ferocity is determined by the Arab masses and not by the Zionist enemy. The paper says that if the enemy chooses to begin this war then "we must make him unable to choose its end."

ATH-THAWRAH was commenting on measures it said the United States may adopt so that its calculations in the Arab region will succeed. One of these measures, the paper says, would be to unleash the enemy in a new aggression to prevent the establishment of a union between Iraq and Syria and to weaken the Arab masses' morale.

ATH-THAWRAH says the United States miscalculated when it imagined it would be able to end the Arab-Zionist conflict by infiltrating "across a fragile point in the Arab ranks."

The paper says this conflict was never a conflict between two states over borders or over a piece of land, but a conflict of life and death between a nation living on the entire Arab homeland and an alien entity established by force and by imperialism in the heart of this homeland.

The paper affirms that the United States deludes itself when it believes that having imposed its will in order to bring about the signing of a contemptible peace between a traitorous ruler such as As-Sadat, who has been summarily rejected by the Arab nation, and the Zionist enemy, it will be able to terrorize the Arab masses.

HAMMADI MEETS WITH IRAQI DIPLOMATS TO ARAB STATES

JN171348 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 17 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 March--This morning in Baghdad Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi opened the second annual conference of Iraqi heads of missions to the fraternal Arab countries. During today's session a discussion was held on current Arab issues and As-Sadat's attempt to conclude a separate peace with the Zionist entity. The discussion also touched on the results of the ninth Arab summit conference that was held in Baghdad, the situation in the Arab gulf region and in the Horn of Africa and other topics of concern to the Arab League.

The weeklong conference will include meetings with a number of party and revolution leaders, as well as with other officials. This conference is part of a series of conferences to be held with the heads of all the diplomatic missions in order to brief them on the viewpoints of the party and revolution leadership regarding national and pan-Arab issues, as well as the international situation.

The first meeting of this conference was held in the middle of last month with the heads of diplomatic missions to the European and socialist states, Latin America, Japan, China and Australia. The third round of this conference is to be held in the middle of next month for the heads of diplomatic missions to Third World states.

CEMA OFFICIAL DISCUSSES COOPERATION WITH IRAQI COMMITTEE

JN192041 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 19 March--Meetings between the Iraqi Scientific and Technical Cooperation Committee and a CEMA delegation started here today.

The committee, headed by Ibrahim Muhammad Ahmad, director general of human environment in the Ministry of Health, will discuss with Dr (Bashtriyel), head of the CEMA delegation, scientific-technical cooperation between the appropriate Iraqi establishments and those of the CEMA members. The two sides will discuss the possibility of drawing up a plan for exchanging technical and economic expertise and university professors, and for organizing training courses for specialized cadres.

During the 3-day meeting, a joint study will be made on a number of technological processes related to industry and agriculture [words indistinct] scientific expertise on protection of the environment.

MORE ON HUSAYN'S TEACHERS' DAY RALLY ADDRESS

JN201354 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Mar 79 JN

["Text" of speech by Jordan's King Husayn at teachers' day rally held in the Palace of Culture in Amman on 20 March--recorded]

[Excerpt] Our children are facing a challenge involving their national entity, cultural presence and social and economic stability due to the hostile racist onslaught that was directed against us early in this century. This onslaught is still renewing its aggressive power to fulfill its desire for domination and occupation of lands. Our present and future generations are facing a serious historical challenge. They should be qualified to deal at this level of responsibility if they are to live the dignified, free and creative life that our forefathers lived. The only way to be up to the level of the challenge is to further develop the social, patriotic conscience, discipline, love of work, social solidarity and strength of moral structure. Such characteristics are stronger than weapons and equipment and are the pillars of the homeland's strength.

Brothers, our Arab homeland is currently facing a difficult test which it must pass successfully if it is to protect its future and fate. Our pan-Arab struggle with the Zionist invasion and Israeli expansionism in past decades was a struggle characterized by a unity of Arab feelings and position. In the past, we committed great mistakes in the process of our struggle to protect our rights. However, we remained united in the position of confrontation and of joint defense of these rights.

Coming days will witness, for the first time, the departure of a large and important Arab country from the confrontation front and the conclusion of a separate peace treaty with the occupying enemy. We here in Jordan, with the whole Arab nation sharing our feelings, are not against the just and comprehensive solution that secures the rights, ends the occupation and establishes peace based on justice. However, the just settlement cannot be indivisible and Arab rights are indivisible. Arab national rights are an indivisible whole that cannot be divided. They cannot be disregarded. Generations of Arabs have struggled to end the aggressive Zionist design, save the rights of the Palestinian people, who were the main victims, and protect the Arab lands and future. The entire Arab nation with all its states must stand to defend these rights and to support the confrontation peoples until the colonialist aggression is removed from the occupied areas and the sons of Arab Palestine can regain their rights and exercise self-determination. [applause]

The separate bilateral settlement, which is not part of the joint national commitment, will create a large psychological and strategic gap that must be bridged in a manner that secures the continuation of the Arab nation's material and psychological steadfastness, restores the balance of power and protects the Arab nation's demand for their national rights and for a just and honorable peace based on healthy principles.

We in Jordan are always free of the mentality of outbiddings, incriminations and emotional and verbal reactions that are of no benefit to the Arab cause. Thus, what we are saying and doing is based on our accurate assessment of the balance of power in the area, the interest of the Arab future and the requirements of joint action. The Arab nation should rectify this rupture in the pan-Arab front of steadfastness and solidarity by quickly embarking on building its intrinsic power in seriousness, determination and rationalism. Meanwhile, we should continue to uphold our position of supporting just and honorable peace, which secures full Israeli withdrawal, regains dear and holy Jerusalem and preserves the Palestinian people's full rights, including their right to self-determination within the framework of a just and comprehensive settlement. [applause]

In the final analysis, the cause of right will win, regardless of how long it takes and regardless of how great the challenges are, if we in the Arab homeland undertake our planning according to rationalism, faith and mutual confidence, and work in persistence, awareness and seriousness.

HUSAYN RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM SOVIET LEADERSHIP

JN201431 Amman JNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 20 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Amman, 20 March--His Majesty King Husayn today received a message from the Soviet leadership dealing with the latest developments in the Middle East situation.

GOVERNMENT SEEKS ARAB LEAGUE DEBATE OF ISRAELI BILL

JN171908 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Mar 79 JN

[Text] The Arab League General Secretariat received a memo from the Jordanian Government today. The memo requests that an Israeli draft bill, which would force all foreign embassies and missions to transfer their headquarters to the city of Jerusalem, be placed on the agenda of the Arab League Council meeting scheduled to convene in the Somali capital on 24 March. The memo also notes that the Israeli draft bill was approved by the coalition blocs of the Israeli Government.

Dhuqan al-Hindawi, Jordanian ambassador to Cairo and permanent envoy to the Arab League, said that the Jordanian Government requested that this issue be placed on the Arab League Council's agenda in order to discuss all of its aspects and to draft an Arab plan for confronting it. He said that a great number of the world's countries did not recognize Jerusalem as a capital of Israel and had not transferred their embassies there in solidarity with Arab rights and in response to the UN resolutions.

SHARAF RETURNS TO AMMAN FROM SAUDI ARABIA

JN162016 Amman Domestic Television Service in English 2000 GMT 16 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Chief of the Royal Court ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf returned to Amman tonight from Riyadh after a brief visit to Saudi Arabia. While there, Sharif Sharaf met with King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and delivered a message to him from his majesty the king. He also held talks with the Saudi monarch and other top Saudi officials on the situation in the region in light of the recent developments. In a statement upon arrival at Amman airport, Sharif Sharaf said his visit was designed to exchange views and coordinate the two countries' positions in the service of the common Arab interests.

MINISTER IBRAHIM LEAVES FOR KUWAIT, BAHRAIN

JN191007 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hasan Ibrahim left Amman today for a visit to Kuwait and Bahrain. During the visit, Ibrahim will convey messages from His Majesty King Husayn to Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, and Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain. The messages deal with the current Arab situation.

Returns, Makes Statement

JN201525 Amman JNA in Arabic 1510 GMT 20 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Amman, 20 March--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hasan Ibrahim returned to Amman at noon today following a visit to Bahrain and Kuwait during which he conveyed messages from His Majesty King Husayn to Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, amir of Kuwait, and Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain. The messages deal with Jordan's stand on current Arab developments and the coming stage following the signing of the separate peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

In a statement to JNA, Mr Ibrahim said that he is carrying two messages to His Majesty King Husayn from his highness the amir of Kuwait and his highness the amir of Bahrain containing the viewpoints of these two countries on the current Arab situation.

Mr Ibrahim added that viewpoints between Jordan and Kuwait and Bahrain were identical regarding current developments. These viewpoints are based on strengthening Arab solidarity and collective Arab action within the framework of the Baghdad summit resolutions.

CZECHOSLOVAK ECONOMIC DELEGATION ARRIVES IN AMMAN

JN171457 Amman JNA in Arabic 0940 GMT 17 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Amman, 17 March--A Czechoslovak economic delegation arrived in Amman yesterday on a 4-day visit to Jordan. The delegation will hold talks with officials in the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Union of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and the Amman Chamber of Commerce on strengthening economic cooperation, increasing the volume of trade and exploring fields of bilateral cooperation.

Trade Minister, CSSR Talks

JN171459 Amman JNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 17 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Amman, 17 March--Dr Najm ad-Din ad-Dajani, minister of industry and trade, met today with the Czechoslovak economic delegation and discussed ways to promote trade exchange, increase its volume and set up joint industrial projects between Jordan and Czechoslovakia. The Czechoslovak economic delegation arrived in Amman yesterday at the invitation of the Union of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce.

AWQAF MINISTER LEAVES FOR SAUDI ARABIA

JN181605 Amman JNA in Arabic 1508 GMT 18 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Amman, 18 March--Kamil ash-Sharif, minister of Awqaf, Islamic affairs and holy places, left for Saudi Arabia heading a delegation to attend the meetings of Awqaf and Islamic affairs ministers starting in holy Mecca on 20 March. The delegation will also attend the meetings of the Higher World Council for Mosques which started in holy Mecca last Wednesday.

The delegation has prepared a number of memos to submit at the meetings of the Awqaf ministers and of the Higher World Council for Mosques. The memos include studies and proposals on Islamic work, Awqaf affairs and the tasks of pilgrimage.

AMMAN PAPERS COMMENT ON HUSAYN-'ARAFAT MEETING

JN181141 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 18 Mar 79 JN

[Press review]

[Text] Today's editorials concentrate on the Jordanian-Palestinian statement issued after the talks between King Husayn and 'Arafat and the utmost importance of this statement in support of Arab solidarity and the steadfastness of our people in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Commenting on this topic AD-DUSTUR says: Yesterday's top level meeting between Jordan and the PLO constitutes a logical step toward strengthening Arab ranks and the necessary coordination between brothers to confront the grave challenges surrounding our nation. These challenges have increased more than ever since Israel and Egypt declared their intention to sign a separate peace treaty.

AD-DUSTUR says: Jordan called and still calls for consultation and unified action among all Arab parties and on all levels out of faith in its pan-Arab responsibility and the unity of the cause and destiny. Proceeding from this standpoint Jordan did not hesitate to act for the cause in the international arena even at a time when efforts to cook up a bilateral treaty reached their peak. Jordan lodged a complaint to the Security Council against Israel's settlement policy in the West Bank and Gaza. His Majesty King Husayn said the word in calling for support for the Palestinian people's rights. His Highness Crown Prince Hasan has written articles in major international papers stressing these rights and warning of the Camp David dangers.

AD-DUSTUR further says: Undoubtedly the Jordanian-Palestinian meeting yesterday is an indication of the success of the fraternal dialog between the two sides in the past few months. This means that the Arab ranks have been further strengthened, particularly in the light of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian views on the need to strengthen our people's steadfastness in the West Bank and Gaza to enable them to foil the enemy's plans, primarily the self-rule plan.

The Arab countries which crystallized their stand at the Baghdad summit are now required more than before to give utmost support to the Jordanian-Palestinian interaction and to take into account firmly and seriously the great challenges and future possibilities menacing the area.

Commenting on the same subject AL-AKHBAR writes: The Jordanian-Palestinian meeting came 1 day before the arrival of the U.S. President's envoy in Jordan and affirmed a new and serious method of pan-Arab action free of appearances and emotions and committed to objective study, consultation and closing of ranks. Thus, the U.S. envoy will find that the Arab people are in strong cohesion with their leaderships at these stages and that the leaderships are sticking with the people. This cohesion will not be divided as long as it is linked with a clear and specific program.

The paper says: The Arab nation, in the minimum program adopted at the Baghdad summit, gave the Camp David parties, particularly Egypt, enough chance to review its stand and to return to the right path. As the Camp David parties did not appreciate the Baghdad summit warnings with the commitment and obligations they implied, the Jordanian-Palestinian rapprochement is a preliminary indication of the seriousness of these resolutions and commitments. Concluding its editorial AL-AKHBAR notes: Yesterday's meeting was as clearly significant as Jordan's commitment to an overall solution to the Palestine question. Jordan will always adhere to this stand.

Under the headline "A Step on the Right Path" AR-RA'Y writes: The meeting between the Jordanian and Palestinian leaders on Jordanian soil yesterday constitutes the first step to unifying the parties directly concerned with the conflict and the most harmed by Egypt's capitulation before de facto solutions and the most exposed to grave challenges in the next few months.

AR-RA'Y says: As King Husayn's stand achieved this meeting with the PLO and its leader Yasir 'Arafat, which expressed the aspirations of the Jordanian-Palestinian family, there is great hope that the next step will achieve a joint meeting among the brothers of existence and destiny in Syria, Iraq and Lebanon. The unity of the frontline states, cohesion of their ranks and development of their abilities to remain steadfast constitute the only practical answer to stop the collapse of the Arab wall and to build an intrinsic Arab force capable of handling the new changes in the Arab arena.

AR-RA'Y comments: We must not let the enemies of our nation exploit the positive aspects of the Arab meetings aimed at achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the area in cooperation with the international community to achieve complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab land and to restore the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, particularly their right to restore their land and to determine their own national future on their independent state.

In conclusion the paper says: We must view the separate treaty between Egypt and Israel as a declaration of war by Israel against the Arab fronts which refused to capitulate to humiliating conditions and to cede pan-Arab rights. This requires the Arab countries to deal with this declaration with reason and wisdom to prevent the explosion and to stop the Zionist tide in preparation for a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the area.

AR-RA'Y WARNS AGAINST ISRAEL'S 'COMING DANGER'

JN200640 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 20 Mar 79 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Coming Danger," AR-RA'Y points out that Israel's long-range objectives in neutralizing the southern front involve the desire to deal separately with the eastern and northern fronts. The paper says: This attempt unearths the scope of the danger menacing the frontline countries. The Israeli danger does exist and will be implemented after the signing of the separate peace treaty. Regardless of the ways in which this neutralizing attempt is being used to persuade us that there are dangers that outweigh the cancerous Zionist danger, it is nevertheless doomed to failure. We do fear, however, that some might imagine that there are dangers worse than that of Zionism.

RENEWAL OF ADF MANDATE TO BE REQUESTED

NC210923 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Mar 79 NC

[Text] According to today's reports, Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus yesterday gave a letter to Antoine Jum'ah, the chief of Arab affairs at the Foreign Ministry, to convey to the ministerial meeting of the Arab League Council, which will be held this Saturday in Mogadiscio, the capital of Somalia. The letter includes an application for the renewal of the mandate of the Arab Deterrent Forces. The reports add that the letter includes a demand for financing the deterrent forces and that it defines the method of filling the security vacuum which will result from the withdrawal of the Sudanese and Saudi forces. The letter emphasizes that the Lebanese Army will fill the security vacuum in the posts which will be vacated.

AL-HUSS, BUTRUS MEET WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR DEAN

NC202304 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 20 Mar 79 NC

[Excerpt] This evening, Prime Minister al-Huss met with U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon John Dean. They discussed domestic and international developments and the situation in the southern area, particularly the means for implementing UN resolutions. Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus also met with Ambassador Dean, who said the following after the meeting: I have notified the foreign minister that I will remain here and not leave for Washington, as I can better assist Lebanon in this way.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR SEES SARKIS, MAKES STATEMENT

NC201325 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 20 Mar 79 NC

[Text] At 1315 today President Ilyas Sarkis received Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon Aleksandr Soldatov. They discussed the situation in Lebanon and developments in the area. After the meeting, the Soviet ambassador said: We discussed the general situation in the area and in Lebanon. I thank his excellency the president for this meeting. Asked his views about the situation in Lebanon in particular and in the area in general, the ambassador said: I believe that my views now are, to a certain extent, what they used to be. You know these views. Indeed, it is very important to understand the situation and do what is necessary to support the position of the Arab states on the separate peace decision, because it is against the Baghdad summit resolutions and against the interests of the Arab states. You are fully aware that your country actively participated in the adoption of the Baghdad summit resolutions. Asked if he handed President Sarkis anything from his government connected with the situation in Lebanon, the ambassador said: this is a secret which the president alone can reveal.

PALESTINIANS CLASH WITH NETHERLANDS UNIFIL TROOPS

JN201949 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpt] An armed clash took place this morning between a Netherlands UNIFIL battalion and a group of fighters of the Palestinian revolution in the region of As-Siddiqin in the eastern sector of southern Lebanon.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM BREZHNEV

JN201759 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1750 GMT 20 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 20 March--At 1600 today President Hafiz al-Asad received Yuriy Chernyakov, Soviet ambassador in Damascus. During the meeting the president received a message from Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

SYRIA AGREES TO IRAQ'S INVITATION TO MINISTERIAL MEETING

JN210544 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 21 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Damascus--The Syrian Arab Republic has agreed to participate in the meeting of the Arab foreign and economic ministers in Baghdad. A responsible source in the Foreign Ministry has stated that Syria has received the Iraqi invitation to attend the meeting of the Arab foreign and economic ministers in Baghdad from 27 to 29 March.

FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN LONDON ON OFFICIAL VISIT

JN201956 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 20 Mar 79 JN

[Text] London--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, arrived in London today on an official visit to the United Kingdom.

During this visit, which is in response to an invitation from David Owen, UK secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, Khaddam will hold talks with British officials on the situation in the region and on bilateral relations.

AL-BA'TH COMMENTS ON PEACE AGREEMENT, BEGIN'S KNESSET SPEECH

JN210813 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 21 Mar 79 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Writing under the headline "The Deal," AL-BA'TH comments: There are only a few days left until the signing of the separate peace agreement. The Egyptian and Zionist sides have already started packing to leave for Washington, where the signing ceremony is scheduled to take place on 26 March. Washington is now busy preparing an appropriate atmosphere for the occasion.

The U.S. administration, which had thrown its weight in to render the deal a success, seeks to celebrate this occasion in a manner compatible with the objectives the deal has secured for it. It is no secret that the deal is bound to serve the U.S. and Zionist strategies in the area.

AL-BA'TH adds: It is evident that the deal has achieved all the U.S. and Zionist hopes. Accordingly, the U.S. administration had summoned the U.S. ambassadors in the area to supply them with new instructions commensurate with the future U.S. strategy in the area.

This strategy is partially aimed at intensifying the U.S. military presence in the area and the U.S.-As-Sadat-Zionist military alliance, and will include the pressure policy the United States will seek to pursue in the area during the next stage, with the aim of preventing the Arabs from carrying out any antideal action and from implementing the Baghdad summit resolutions.

After discussing terrorist Begin's statements in the Knesset to the effect that there will be no return to the pre-1967 lines, that there will never be a Palestinian state and that Jerusalem is Israel's unified capital, AL-BA'TH says that Begin's statements alone are sufficient to expose all the Egyptian regime's allegations about its adherence to Arab objectives. The significance of Begin's statements is that they were made a few days before the signing of the deal. As-Sadat insists on going to Washington next Saturday to sign the deal despite the circumstances. In light of all of this, As-Sadat will undoubtedly sign the deal. The Arab reply must therefore be interpreted in implementation of the Baghdad summit's resolutions. Will the Arabs do that?

DAMASCUS: SAUDI ARABIA TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS IF TREATY SIGNED

JN170809 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0715 GMT 17 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpt] With the exception of Numayri's regime in Sudan, King Hassan in Morocco and Sultan Qabus in Oman, Arab governments continue to reaffirm their commitment to the resolutions of the Baghdad summit and their determination to isolate As-Sadat's regime and his capitulationist policies. Press reports say that Husni Mubarak, vice president to the traitor As-Sadat, has failed in his mission to Saudi Arabia. These reports say that Saudi Arabia has decided to impose immediate sanctions on the Egyptian regime if it signs the separate peace agreement. Jordan has also reaffirmed its denunciation of the traitorous agreement and its call for adherence to the resolutions of the Baghdad summit.

DAMASCUS PAPERS VIEW U.S. POLICY, BRZEZINSKI VISIT

JN181120 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 Mar 79 JN

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The United States Is Playing With Fire," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says in its editorial today that Carter, the godfather of the U.S. settlement, is now satisfied that he has won the round in dragging a kneeling, defeated As-Sadat to sign the peace agreement with the intransigent terrorist Menahem Begin.

This agreement is considered the cornerstone in the conspiracy for a comprehensive settlement which aims to place the area under the U.S. umbrella step by step. Carter believes that having won this round will enable him to begin immediately with his election campaign with the support of the Zionist lobby, U.S. industrial interests and the information media. They will present him to the American people as the producer of the U.S. peace miracle.

However, this round will have its consequences. The loss of the second round will surely mean not only Carter's withdrawal from the head of the election list but exposing U.S. interests to danger in vital areas. Carter's game of ignoring international and Arab will to go to Palestine and listen to the Zionist dialog and scenario at the Knesset; turning a deaf ear to the Palestinian people's upheaval in their homeland; and losing the capability for sound judgment implies that the Arab citizen is a copy of As-Sadat and his likes. The results of such a game are not guaranteed.

The paper adds: Despite this, the administration of godfather Carter wants once again to ignore this by resorting to the old, ugly U.S. method of waving the big stick in an attempt to peddle the game. However, the policy of waving the big stick has proved futile. It neither terrorizes the people enough to keep them from achieving revolution nor does it protect the regimes which are allies of the United States. The policies of alliances were neither successful in Baghdad nor in Tehran and the regimes friendly to the United States are now seeking deliverance from these policies.

Therefore, the game will inevitably backfire on those playing it. Those who are playing with the Middle East fire, whether with its people or oil, will be burned by it.

Under the headline "Washington Ignites the Fuse," the newspaper TISHRIN says in its editorial today that the U.S. administration has sent Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's national security adviser, to the Middle East a few days after President Carter's visit to the area. Brzezinski's visit is aimed at speeding up the conclusion of the Egyptian-Israeli capitulationist peace agreement.

Brzezinski's task in the area is to prepare the atmosphere to peddle the agreement without too much clamor, try to divide Arab ranks, fragment the Arab front which rejects capitulation, and call for capitulationist agreements between Israel and other Arab parties under the pretext of a comprehensive peace settlement. Brzezinski's task also includes establishing alliances either in traditional forms or new ones to serve the United States and its desire to control Arab oil, to counter imaginary dangers and to stand against the legitimate aspirations of the peoples in this area.

U.S. Defense Secretary Harold Brown came to the area before Carter and Brzezinski carrying the big stick and promises to provide arms to those who agree to join the U.S. scheme for establishing alliances, particularly with Israel. All these U.S. movements show an insistence on imposing the separate peace agreement and making it an example for other agreements to be imposed on the other parties to the dispute in order to bring the area under the U.S. umbrella. This means that the area will enter the zone of foreign influence, national and pan-Arab interests will be relinquished, and the area will participate in international conflicts on the side of imperialism and Zionism.

The U.S. insistence on imposing a capitulationist peace agreement on the Arabs constitutes a huge provocation to the Arab nation and a blatant aggression against the Arab masses' rights to their land and to self-determination. It is also an attempt to impose the law of the jungle as a rule in international relations.

The paper adds that all the Arab countries rejected the Camp David agreements and the separate peace agreement at the Baghdad conference. The Arabs also rejected all the results ensuing from these agreements. The United States, which has been defeated in Iran, has launched a new aggression against the Arab nation to force it to agree to the capitulationist peace and prevent it from opposing such a peace. The United States is putting U.S.-Arab relations to a difficult test unprecedented in the history of these relations. The United States is placing U.S. interests in the area, including oil interests, in a very difficult position, the future of which cannot be predicted.

The paper says that the intensive U.S. aggression against the Arab nation increases the danger of the existing situation in the area and increases the possibilities it will explode. The United States will thus be igniting the fuse and opening the door to all possibilities. It will force the Arabs to look for all kinds of defensive measures to enable them to protect their freedom, homeland and rights. The loser in all cases will be the United States.

ALGERIA

BENDJEDID RECEIVES 'ARAFAT-LED PLO DELEGATION

LD202010 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the FLN Party, at the presidential headquarters at noon today received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who was accompanied by Abu 'Iyad and Abu Hatim. The meeting was attended by Mohamed Salih Yahiaoui, member of the Political Bureau and party coordinator, and Col Abdallah Melhouchet, member of the Political Bureau and commander of the first military district. President Chadli Bendjedid stressed to Yasir 'Arafat that Algeria will remain as it has always been, alongside the Palestinian people in their heroic struggle for the recovery of their usurped land and legitimate rights. Yasir 'Arafat arrived at noon today in Algiers on board a special plane. He was welcomed at the airport by Col Abdallah Belhouchet, and a number of senior officials.

MAURITANIA

PRESIDENT SALEK RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM 'ARAFAT

LD170050 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 16 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpt] Col Mustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck, chairman of the Military Committee for National Recovery and head of the government, at 1600 today received Abu 'Isam, the PLO representative in Nouakchott, who delivered a message from the PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. In a statement to newsmen after the meeting, Abu 'Isam explained that the message was in connection with the recent developments in the Arab area.

PRESIDENT SALECK HOLDS TALKS WITH MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR

LD170052 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 16 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck, chairman of the Military Committee for National Recovery and head of the government, at 1700 today received the Moroccan ambassador to our country, Ahmed Senoussi. After the meeting, the ambassador told newsmen that he talked with the chairman of the Military Committee for National Recovery and head of government about the friendly relations which exist between our country and the Moroccan Kingdom. He added that he also discussed with the chairman all the matters that concern the two fraternal countries.

PRESIDENT SALECK: CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL TO BE APPOINTED

LD202332 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 20 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck, chairman of the Military Committee for National Recovery and head of the government, addressed a speech to the nation today, in which he announced the need to work for the implementation of the program of the 2 coming years which was announced on 1 January 1979. He also stressed the need to strengthen and protect our national unity.

He affirmed our country's determination to come out of the state of war. Here is a full translation of the speech:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. May the blessing of God be upon the prophet, His messenger.

Mauritanians, on 10 July 1978, the armed forces seized power at a time when the country was on the brink of destruction. Lack of security and stability prevailed as a result of the fratricidal war in which the country was dragged against its will. National unity had been exposed to real dangers. Also, destruction was the economy's lot reaching the point of complete financial destruction. The freedoms of the citizens were trodden on by the autocratic regime of national betrayal.

On (?16 July 1978), the Military Committee for National Recovery, in a statement which I addressed to the nation, set out the basic principles of the 10 July movement. And on 1 January 1979, after 6 months (?in office), a 2-year program was drawn up. It was announced to the Mauritanian nation and world public opinion. Since that time, specialized and (?expert) bodies have been working for the implementation of this program.

Experience makes us dutybound to introduce certain reforms to the means of power, and in actual fact the spirit of leniency and democracy and the freedom of action granted to high officials has been misunderstood at certain levels. This impells me to affirm here in the name of the Military Committee for National Recovery that it is no longer possible to overlook this behaviour, and that officials whatever their position must draw up their work within the framework of the general policy which is defined by the Military Committee for National Recovery. This is in order to serve the supreme interests of the Mauritanian people.

Mauritanians, the time of truth has come. The time of sincere and committed work for the benefit of the Mauritanian nation has come. The Military Committee for National Recovery has adopted a number of measures in order to foil the plans of those whose yearning for power and lament the for a past that will not return moved them to use base maneuvers in order to weaken our national unity and upset our domestic equilibrium, and harm our national sovereignty by serving aims which are hostile to the homeland.

Within the framework of these measures comes the decision which was adopted by the Military Committee to Review the Constitutional Charter, issued on 10 July 1978, in order that the chairman of the Military Committee for National Recovery may be granted all the necessary powers to confront emergency conditions. And within this framework also comes the decision to set up a consultative council which will fulfill the permanent wish of the Military Committee for National Recovery, manifested in letting the people participate in the various stages of implementing the general policy of the country as defined in the (?16 July 1978) declaration and in the program of the 2 coming years announced on 1 January 1979. This national consultative council, which will be appointed with consideration to the various national trends, will hold its first session on 30 March 1979. It will remain in existence until new bodies are set up and which spring from democratic elections. This council will give (?its opinion) concerning the basic choices which were contained in the (?16) July 1978 declaration, and in the program which was announced on 1 January 1979, and also concerning the results which will be achieved by the committees which are charged with studying the necessary reforms at the level of various sections. The consultative council will give its opinion on all the issues which require a national debate and which will be submitted to it by the Military Committee for National Recovery.

Thus, the national consultative council will reflect the opinion of the people on various issues of national importance. Among such issues, there will definitely be the issue of establishing peace in the Arab Maghreb area and rebuilding the national economy. The issue of peace, which is the basic condition for national recovery, has received all the attention of the Military Committee for National Recovery. Accordingly, the efforts of the committee and the government have centered on this issue ever since 10 July 1978, and the efforts which have been made in this direction have not been wasted. Our country's opinion on the Sahara issue has become clear and defined. Our country gives priority to the search for an overall solution acceptable to all the parties concerned. But our country, in view of its attachment to the principles and charters of the African, Arab and international organizations to which it belongs, is determined to take all the necessary measures in order to finally end the state of war, even though an overall solution to the issue becomes impossible.

In regard to the economic program, I have repeatedly affirmed that we have chosen the liberal road within which the liberal framework of the jurisdictions of the state should be respected at the time when personal intiatives will be encouraged. On this basis, our private sector should regain its national awareness and play the role we expect of it. From now on, the state will not be a nuisance to it in those areas within which the private sector can produce fruitful work which meets the needs of the country in the field of economic development. This, however, does not mean that the state will abandon its duty in cases where the private sector fails to shoulder the role assigned to it, in order to support businessmen. Important reforms will be introduced, particularly on the level of loans and reorganizing the domestic and external trade. Within the framework of these measures comes the decision to reshuffle the government in light of our experience and in accordance with the levels of responsibility, which are: Competence, honesty and complete discipline--and this is our basic criterion--and devotion to the service of the Mauritanian nation for which we always wish more unity and well-being.

Mauritanians, the provocative rumors which are being spread by the enemies of our national unity and which find refuge in the cultural problem do not at all worry us, because history has never known a nation even of one race that has evolved and developed without encountering problems and disturbances. The various constituents of our people are linked by more than a thousand and one ties. They have coexisted throughout history. They will continue to coexist in peace and harmony in the future.

The various races of our people, whatever their ethnic origins, have never felt that they belong to any homeland other than Mauritania. The problems and difficulties which you are facing are no more than the teething trouble a society experiences during its natural development. Even other homogeneous societies have experienced and are experiencing more acute problems than those which we are facing, although the regimes of those societies try to conceal these problems.

What is important is that the dialog should continue and that the solutions to be attained should be the fruit of a well-considered debate, binding on all. It is also important that each one of us should take part in the action on which the future of Mauritania depends. This action cannot but serve the unity of this country and the happiness of its people, whose diverse elements should be a cause for pride rather than schism and division. May God guide our steps along the road of national recovery, the road of establishing peace and basic democratic freedoms and of the economic reconstruction of the country. Peace be upon you.

MOROCCO

MAROC SOIR: COUNTRY READY TO FIGHT, READY FOR PEACE

LD171542 Rabat MAP in English 1223 GMT 17 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Rabat, March 17. (MAP)--The semiofficial daily, MAROC SOIR, stated Friday that, "Morocco is determined to make war if Algeria chooses this way, and it is ready to negotiate peace if the Algerian leaders regain their senses".

After it recalled King Hassan's message to the house of representatives and its impact on the national as well as on the international level, the daily outlined that now everything depends on Algeria. Concerning Morocco, the situation is clear, but it may seen a bit complicated when it is a question of Algeria.

The Algerian power tried to make the public opinion believe that the present conflict is in fact opposing Morocco to the Sahara inhabitants. This is a shameless lie. The so-called Saharans who launch their operations from the Tindouf bases are mere mercenaries, from which the Algerian power created an organization, and made of it a "people" and "a republic". The Algerian leaders could not directly face Morocco, so they resort to do it by the intermediary of mercenaries. The world must grasp this truth: The war imposed on Morocco is Algeria's war. The mercenaries who launch attacks against our provinces are trained, armed, and financed by Algeria, which violates thus not only its own commitments (the agreements of Ifrane in 1969, and of Rabat in 1972), but also the international law. The Organization for African Unity's charter is very clear on this subject. It forbids the member countries to serve as subversion bases against neighbouring countries.

It is Algeria which created the POLISARIO out of nothing. Now, after it exhausted all resorts able to reestablish peace, Morocco declares its decision to defend itself. This decision, unanimously adopted by the whole nation, is a normal reaction because it is a question of exercising a right universally recognized, the right to legitimate defense.

The daily concluded that Morocco, for its part, has already made its choice. It is now up to the Algerian leaders to make up their mind. The outcome of the present situation depends on Algeria.

IVORY COAST MINISTER BRINGS HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY MESSAGE

LD180418 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpt] The Ivory Coast's information minister, Amadou Thiam, arrived in Rabat at noon today. He said on arrival that he was extremely pleased to be in our country, adding that he was carrying a message from President Felix Houphouet-Boigny to His Majesty King Hassan II. His mission, he said, was in line with the firm relations between the two countries and the two heads of state and was for the prupose of exchanging views on various issues.

HA'ARETZ PUBLISHES TEXT OF TREATY APPENDIXES

TA200927 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Mar 79 pp 1, 2 TA

[By HA'ARETZ political correspondent 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Text] The Israel-Egyptian peace treaty is composed of 10 documents: the treaty itself, a military appendix, a supplement to the military appendix, the political appendix, three memorandums on agreed issues, a letter of interpretation on the issue of autonomy and letters referring to the exchange of ambassadors and U.S. commitments regarding the UN forces.

The whole package will be published today, but it reached the HA'ARETZ correspondent last night. The peace treaty has nine articles and the political appendix, which defines the nature of the normalization of relations between the two countries, has eight articles. These two documents were published last November after the Blair House talks.

The memorandum which defines the relations of both countries in regard to the UN forces and the joint letter which describes the process of the establishment of autonomy were published yesterday in HA'ARETZ following their publication in AL-AHRAM.

The memorandum and letter published by HA'ARETZ were Hebrew translations of the English versions carried by ASSOCIATED PRESS] The military appendix, which has not yet been published, has nine articles; the attached supplement has seven articles (which translate the military appendix into visual language, describing the deployment of both armies on maps). The special supplement to the military appendix deals with accompanying issues such as the principles of the withdrawal, the status of the UN forces, the formation of joint committees, liaison arrangements between both armies, etc.

The main articles in the military appendix are:

--A joint Israeli-Egyptian committee will be established immediately after the peace treaty is endorsed. It will supervise the movements and schedules of the withdrawal.

--In the Suez Canal area (encompassing both the West and East Banks), which is referred to in the treaty as area "A," the Egyptians will be permitted to deploy one mechanized infantry division which will include, among other things: an armored brigade, 7 artillery battalions including several surface-to-air missiles and up to 126 antiaircraft cannons, up to 230 tanks, up to 540 armored vehicles and up to a total of 22,000 troops.

--Four battalions of Egyptian border guards will be stationed in the limited forces zone (central Sinai) designated as area "B." They are to be equipped with light weapons and wheeled vehicles.

--UN forces and Egyptian civilian police units will be stationed in area "C" (close to the international border). The police will be equipped with light weapons.

--Four Israeli infantry battalions, which will include up to 200 armored vehicles and up to a total of 4,000 troops, will be stationed in area "D"--the Israeli limited forces zone (on the Israeli side of the international border).

--Flights by jet fighters will be permitted only over areas "A" and "D." Egyptian cargo aircraft will be permitted to fly over and land in area "B." The Egyptian border guard in the area will be equipped with unarmed helicopters and so will the military police.

--The UN forces will inspect at least twice a month the implementation of the security arrangements agreed upon by both sides. Among other duties, the UN forces will have to guarantee freedom of navigation in the Tiran Straits.

--After the joint Israeli-Egyptian committee finishes its work, a liaison system with the duty of solving problems and assessing the implementation of the treaty will be set up between the two sides.

--An Egyptian liaison office will be set up in Al-'Arish and an Israeli liaison office will be set up in Beersheva. There will be telephone connections between the offices.

--Each side undertakes to take care of all the monuments set up in memory of war victims and to permit free access to them.

--The withdrawal from each area will be done in the following way: After the evacuation of the IDF forces, the UN forces will enter the area. The Egyptian military police will then follow and only 1 week after the area has been evacuated by the IDF will the Egyptian border units enter the area. Egyptian military units will be allowed to enter the evacuated area only 2 weeks after it has been evacuated by the IDF.

--Israel undertakes to transfer to Egypt all the agreed upon infrastructures, services and installations in their entirety. Among other things, these include: airfields, roads, pumping stations and ports. Israel will supply Egypt with the necessary information to perform maintenance work at these installations.

--Until Israel has withdrawn to the international border, Egypt undertakes to do its best to supply Israel with water from sites which are now under Israel's control and which it will also need in the future (in the area of Al-'Arish and At-Tur).

--Israel undertakes to remove or erase military barriers, including the removal of mines from the areas from which it withdraws. Regarding minefields which are impossible to clear, Israel will supply Egypt and the UN detailed maps of the sites.

--The United States will continue its surveillance flights until the final withdrawal has been completed. The U.S. early warning stations will continue to operate until the withdrawal from the area east of the Giddi and Mitla passes has been completed.

--Egypt will effect full sovereignty over the evacuated areas in the Sinai.

The following is the text of the memorandum on the matter of Israel's status as a customer for Egyptian oil: The peace treaty and its appendixes provide for the establishment of normal economic relations between the sides. Accordingly, it is agreed that these relations will include simple oil sales by Egypt to Israel.

Israel will have the full right to submit purchase orders for oil produced in Egypt which is not needed for domestic consumption. Egypt and its oil concessionaries will handle Israeli orders on the same bases and under the same conditions as oil orders placed by other customers.

Following is the text of letters to be exchanged between the prime minister and President Carter regarding the arrangements to exchange ambassadors between Israel and Egypt:

Carter to Begin: I received a letter from President as-Sadat saying that, within 1 month after Israel has completed the withdrawal to the interim line in the Sinai, as was determined in the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, Egypt will send a resident ambassador to Israel and will receive an Israeli resident ambassador. I would appreciate it if you could confirm that this arrangement is acceptable to the Israeli Government.

Sincerely: Jimmy Carter.

Begin to Carter: Esteemed President, Sir, I am glad to confirm that the Israeli Government accepts the aforementioned arrangement as detailed in your letter in which you say (and then comes a quotation from Carter's letter).

Sincerely: Menahem Begin.

BEGIN SAYS NO 'MISUNDERSTANDING' OF TREATY TEXT

TA210920 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0940 GMT 21 Mar 79 TA

[Prime Minister Menahem Begin replies to motions submitted by MK's Moshe Shamir and Dani Rozolio claiming treaty submitted to the Knesset is inaccurate, at the Knesset session--live]

[Text] Madame Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, members of the Knesset. Two members of the Knesset, following the U.S. State Department, have rushed and asked to know the truth and they claim that the government has misled the Knesset through presenting a certain version of the treaty between Egypt and Israel and of the military annex in which there are inaccuracies. Well, what is the truth; I will tell the Knesset the facts as they are. Until yesterday the final text of the military annex had not been received.

Our colleagues had the latest draft in their possession. Since it was necessary to also present the military annex and our colleagues had only the latest draft, they placed it on the Knesset table. During the night the final text was received and there certainly are certain amendments, not very important ones, between the two versions. The final text, which the defense minister received while he was in Washington, will be placed on the Knesset table and all these minor amendments will be brought to the knowledge of the members of the Knesset. That is the whole matter of the inaccuracies....

[Mk Moshe Shamir] What about the State Department's announcement...

[Begin] Please do not interrupt me now; you know nothing about it. You will soon hear; be patient. I read your speech yesterday; the whole of it is a list of invective.

You can go on making insults; it will not help you very much. Let me give the announcement. Well, it is all a misunderstanding... Madame Chairman, I don't know. In another half hour or an hour the final text of the military annex will be tabled. There is no misunderstanding here. I must also really, perhaps, apologize, but this is a matter of technical work. The military annex had to be tabled; otherwise people would have asked where it was, where is that document, and we had the latest draft, so we tabled it, while, in the meantime, the final text was received. We will soon table it. As for the U.S. State Department, it should not have rushed to speak about many inaccuracies; they were minor amendments.

Now I want to mention the main point: One of the two members of the Knesset claimed that we distorted the main document and instead of speaking about autonomy for the inhabitants, we should have spoken about autonomy for the territory and we deliberately wrote that autonomy covered inhabitants. I am holding in my hand the Camp David agreement and I will read the main sentence in English and afterward I will translate it into Hebrew: In order to provide full autonomy to the inhabitants, [last nine words in English] in order to provide full autonomy to the inhabitants, and when that word was taken out of the joint letter at the suggestion of the U.S. Government, I brought the U.S. President's attention to the fact that the important word inhabitants [last word in English] had been taken out and they, in the United States, had to introduce it, to return it. Now along comes a member of the Knesset who has not read and not learned and does not know and claims that we deliberately wrote inhabitants [last word in English], when the word territories was written in the Camp David agreement. Here is the truth.

BEGIN DECLINES TO RESPOND TO EGYPTIAN CRITICISM

TA210616 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 Mar 79 TA

[Text] The prime minister has decided not to react to the criticism of his Knesset speech made yesterday by the prime minister and the vice president of Egypt. The prime minister of Egypt, Mustafa Khalil, pointed out that Israel had to evacuate all the Arab territories and particularly Arab Jerusalem, as he phrased it.

WEIZMAN INTERVIEWED ON RETURN FROM WASHINGTON

TA202102 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Mar 79 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Ezer Weizman returned from Washington this afternoon and said that all the questions on which there were differences between Israel and Egypt have been solved, but that one issue has yet to be cleared up: the date Israel will evacuate the oilfields in the Sinai. Our military correspondent 'Amiram Nir was also at Ben-Gurion Airport. [begin videotape]

[Nir] The defense minister arrived here carrying an agreement signed with the United States mainly on four issues: special aid for the evacuation amounting to $3 billion--approximately one fourth of it as a grant and the rest as a loan; the supply of weapons systems for the air, naval and ground forces--including the early supply of F-16 aircraft; the opening of the U.S. military market to Israeli defense products; and cooperation in the field of know-how and financing in research and development programs for weapons systems.

[Question] Mr Weizman, is the U.S. aid, in the amount of $3 billion--only a small part of which is a grant--not putting a certain financial burden on Israel. The original request was almost $1 billion higher?

[Answer] First of all, the original request was for $3.3 billion.

[Question] The most recent request.

[Answer] You said: the original request. Well, then, the original one was for $3.3 billion, and that included the [evacuation of the] settlements--and, in fact, our original request was exactly $3 billion--and there never was talk about what would be a grant and what would be a loan. I think that it is very nice to receive a grant, and that it is very respectable to receive a loan. I am not prepared to defend the United States, but you can hear the U.S. television in national-issue tones: inflation, price hikes, great arguments on television about the U.S. economic situation. I would buy their inflation [because it is so low compared to Israel's], but that is their problem and the President is facing no slight pressures. I talked to him on the phone yesterday before I left. He had asked that I call him and I did. We talked for some 7 or 8 minutes. There are problems in the United States. The entire world is having difficulties. That is why the issue of our request for $3 billion and the continuation of the $1.8 billion [presumably in annual aid Israel already gets]--and it may change--and the approval of many items which we have been requesting for a long time--I think that this request is reasonable and good.

[Question] Are the stages of the withdrawal from the Sinai concluded, and can you detail these stages?

[Answer] The withdrawal stages: apart from the oil, everything is concluded. I told you, the Egyptians want--all in all, there are no demands here, everyone is already prepared, sewing clothes--an earlier evacuation of the oilfields, but we insist on 9 months. [sentence as heard] The only thing which has been concluded, a bit different, perhaps, from what we had talked of before is: Al-'Arish will be evacuated in 3 months; it had been 3 to 4 months. As for all the rest--you will see as soon as things start rolling. There are no problems on the issue. The only problem--or the only issue--which is still open is the date of our leaving 'Alma [oilfield].

[Question] How will this question be solved?

[Answer] It will be solved with time, wisdom and a lot of goodwill. [end videotape]

Our military correspondent has learned that the $2.2-billion loan out of the sum total of special aid amounting to $3 billion will be repayable over 30 years, with a 10-year grace period after the money has been given. The rate of interest is still being discussed, but Israel is asking that the interest be only 2 percent annually.

National-issue tones can be heard in the United States, 'Ezer Weizman says, and indeed last-minute difficulties emerged in the negotiations between Israel and the United States on the issue of aid. The main problem, at this moment, is about the sums of money the United States intends to grant Israel as aid for the IDF redeployment in the Negev.

The reference is to the sum of $800 million as a grant and an additional $2.2 billion as a loan for 20 to 30 years. More details from the studio by our political correspondent Elimelekh Ram.

[(Ram)] These conditions, Cabinet ministers say, will lead Israel into large deficits and the Finance Ministry regards this as a burden which the country will find difficult to bear. The ministerial committee handling the bilateral Israeli-U.S. issue--which includes the finance minister, the foreign minister and the justice minister--sent a cable to the prime minister when he recently met in Washington with President Carter, asking that he do everything so that the main part of the sum be given as a grant. Begin raised the issue with the U.S. President and it seemed as though the issue was settled.

Recently, when it became clear what the proposed sum is and what are its conditions, there were ministers who, at yesterday evening's Cabinet session, demanded that the signing of the peace treaty be conditional upon an early settlement of the bilateral issues. It was decided at the Cabinet that the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs, which leaves for Washington with the prime minister, in consultation with the justice minister, who will remain in the country, will deal with the issues remaining open. The foreign minister leaves for Washington on Thursday, and it is not inconceivable that the prime minister, too, will have to deal with the issue even before the treaty-signing ceremony.

There are ministers who are worried about the gap between the U.S. declarations about the United States being a full partner to the signing of the treaty and the actual fulfillment these promises. The disputed points were clarified yesterday between Ministers Dayan and Tamir and U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis, and during a conversation the prime minister held with the ambassador today. It is still not too late, people in the Cabinet think, to receive the major part of the aid money as a grant, and not as a loan.

Weizman Reaction to Criticism

TA210642 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 21 Mar 79 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] Cabinet ministers will hear a report this morning on the results of Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman's talks in the United States. The minister of finance will meet with Mr Weizman to hear a report from him about the scope of the aid the United States has agreed to give Israel. Cabinet ministers have expressed discontent at the fact that the defense minister agreed to accept a grant of $800 million from the United States and not a larger sum as they had expected. By the end of the week an attempt will be made to conclude this matter in a different way and also the obstacles that have remained in the way of signing the memo of understanding with the United States. Here is our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer on this issue.

[Schiffer] During the night the defense minister sounded angry. What did he reply to his critics? He said that anyone who can get something better should go to the United States. And, indeed, up to the ceremony of signing the peace treaty with Egypt this coming Monday, an attempt will be made to change the decision. Senior circles from the Ministry of Finance said during the night that the ministry's director-general, 'Amiram Sivan, who went to the United States with the defense minister, traveled there in order to get a grant and not loans under conditions which will make things difficult for the economy.

The same circles claim that understanding was recently achieved between the prime minister and President Carter to the effect that the United States would give Israel a special grant of more than $3 billion to implement the withdrawal from Sinai and the new deployment in the Negev. According to this understanding, the Ministry of Finance had prepared a position paper in which the Finance Ministry economists made calculations and found that the state's expenses on the matter of the evacuation and the redeployment will cost nearly $4 billion. Apart from the economic aspect of this affair, they are emphasizing the political aspect. Up to the last few days there was a feeling among the ministers that the United States had agreed to respond to the Israeli request, and then came the announcement about a grant of $800 million and $2.2 billion as a loan, the conditions of which have not yet been agreed upon.

Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, who is leaving for the United States tomorrow, will also discuss this matter with the Americans.

Until the signing of the peace treaty there will also be deliberations about the memo of understanding with the United States. It emerges that the U.S. administration is not prepared to sign an agreement which would guarantee Israel the same political guarantees it is requesting. On this issue contacts are already being held between the U.S. ambassador in Israel and the prime minister, but the detailed discussions on the matter will be held between Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

20 MAR MORNING PRESS ON PEACE TREATY REPORTED

TA200944 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 20 Mar 79 TA

[From the review of the morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] HATZOFE says that after the three MAFDAL ministers responded to the decision concerning the special ministerial committee which will discuss the autonomy issue, a decision preceded by basic clarifications, it is reasonable to say that the MAFDAL principles regarding the autonomy arrangements may serve as foundations for Israel's program. After signing the peace agreement next week, the struggle will begin for formulating autonomy in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. This is a task of prime importance and the MAFDAL's representatives in the Knesset and the Cabinet must prepare themselves for the coming campaigns.

Jerusalem POST writes that the internal argument over autonomy will be especially burning if it turns out that the government's concept of autonomy is identical, as was reported last night by the ministers of the MAFDAL, with that of the MAFDAL. For this means, in fact, that Israel is presenting an uncompromising demand for Judaea, Samaria and Gaza in their entirety.

HAMODI'A thinks even someone who is not enthusiastic about the peace agreement has no right to ignore the fact that this is the first time that the greatest of the Arab countries, which has always been the leader in the wars against Israel, has agreed to recognize Israel's existence; has agreed to sign a peace treaty with it and not to be deterred from this, even when it entered into a sharp confrontation with the entire Arab world and the Palestinians are declaring a boycott against it and threatening the life of the president of Egypt. If Israel had not agreed to the peace treaty, which was achieved after exhausting negotiations and such difficult crises, Israel would have found itself isolated in the international arena and losing all supporters, of whom only very few have remained to it.

21 Mar Morning Press

TA210748 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 21 Mar 79 TA

[From the review of the morning press editorials]

[Excerpts] DAVAR writes that the greatest event in Israel's life, the signing of the first peace treaty with an Arab country, is not being received with morale and enthusiasm suitable to the dramatic development we all hoped for. This is for obvious reasons springing from the weight of the cost, the actuality of the danger and the forecast of further struggles, internal and external, we can expect in the near future because of linking the peace treaty with autonomy. All this was expressed on the first, very long day of the Knesset debate. The paper thinks that the prime minister, in his opening statement, said several things which would have been better left unsaid, while the speaker showed, at the beginning of the session, too strong a hand. The decision facing the Knesset involves doubts for most of its members. We must not blur the pain over uprooting settlements and we must not conceal a justified fear, but we must not miss the chance. The yes must be said and the Knesset will say the yes.

HATZOFE says that the prime minister's statement in the Knesset that Israel will not return to the 1967 borders and that a Palestinian state will never be established in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, and the Egyptian prime minister's reaction to the remarks, may presage what can be expected in the political process after the signing of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt. The letter King Husayn received yesterday from the leaders of the Soviet Union also hints at the difficulties on the way. Even before the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt is signed, we can see the first signs of the hardest struggle--the question of autonomy.

HA'ARETZ writes that the clear knowledge that Israel's views on the matter of autonomy will come up against opposition on the part of Egypt and that the peace treaty will not prevent severe differences of opinion casts its shadow over the Knesset debate, and this is something which can moderate the feelings of satisfaction that we are about to conclude a prolonged stage of the political process. And it did, indeed, conclude with the achievement of contractual peace with the most important and greatest of our neighbors. However, it is also important now to emphasize how great this achievement is and just how much of a positive effect it may have on the atmosphere in which the negotiations over the image of autonomy will be held.

'AL HAMISHMAR says that when the real contradiction between the Government of Israel's interpretation of the autonomy program, as was emphasized in the prime minister's speech, and that of the Government of Egypt, was revealed--and it is likely to be further revealed shortly--there is a danger that the United States will take the side of the Egyptian interpretation and the whole matter will run onto a shoal. Therefore, in the speeches and declarations a line of restraint should be taken; political maturity, national responsibility, clear thinking and the courage to make decisions are the traits needed now and they will give the Knesset debates and decisions their weight.

Jerusalem POST thinks that Mr Begin will, sooner or later, have to retreat from his present position on the autonomy issue. This is because the IDF cannot keep an Arab population, whose legitimate rights have already been recognized at Camp David and which cannot be controlled by Israel, in a situation of unlimited subjugation.

REPORTAGE ON EVENTS, INCIDENTS OF 20 MARCH

Radio Commentary on Oil, Mosaddeq

LD201112 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 20 Mar 79 LD

[Unattributed commentary on "Oil Day"]

[Excerpts] We celebrate the beginning of the 29th year of the nationalization of the oil industry at a time when our country has taken steps toward breaking all the chains and ties of exploitation, old and new colonialism and internal reactionaries, thanks to the tremendous movement of the industry's people.

The nationalization of the oil industry ought to be truly regarded as the focal point in the course of the struggle against the Western plunderers, and for the realization of the just rights of the Iranian nation, thanks to the efforts and diligence of its national leader, Dr Mohammad Mosaddeq. The usurper British Government during many long years embarked on its own industrial expansion through grabbing at our only valuable export asset, not only plundering our wealth, but also interfering in Iran's internal affairs through the appointment and dismissal of officials and personalities. The plunderings of British petroleum, which [word indistinct] Iran's name with it, and the influence of the internal reactionaries attached to Western imperialism in the government machinery, debilitated Iran in realizing its just rights, and brought onto the scene other rivals to take part in the exploits: The northern neighbor, to acquire oil concessions in the north on the one hand, and U.S. oil companies on the other.

The expansion of the anti-imperialist movement in Iran, which endangered British interests and was regarded a major threat to U.S. imperialism, led to cooperation between these two imperialist powers. It wasn't long after this that military forces and warships were sent to the Persian Gulf. Simultaneously, the British Government, with U.S. backing, presented the matter to the International Court of Justice in the Hague and later to the Security Council. But thanks to Iran's insistence on the principle of national sovereignty, and on the point that the matter was an internal issue, the British struggle did not materialize.

After the British failure with the international authorities, it tried to bring down the Mosaddeq Government through the imposition of an economic and trade blockade on Iran. The Abadan refinery was closed and Iran's oil shipments were brought to a halt. The resilience and faith of Dr Mosaddeq, with the support of the (?entire) nation, and the uncompromising stand of this great man against the imperialist powers and their internal agents, caused America and Britain to prepare the ground for the downfall of the Mosaddeq government through the exertion of economic and financial pressures and the disgraceful coup of 19 August 1953, which resulted in the oil agreement with the Consortium. If, prior to the nationalization of the oil industry, we only faced the British colonialist power, after the signing of the Consortium agreement we had to face four imperialist powers, namely Britain, America, France and the Netherlands.

Entezam Press Conference

LD201426 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Mr 'Abbas Amir Entezam, deputy prime minister and spokesman for the Provisional Islamic Revolutionary Government, in a radio and television press conference given at the prime minister's office, today announced several new decrees approved by the government.

According to reports from our correspondent Mr Hasan Hazepzi, Mr Amir Entezam said in this interview that the government last night approved a decree concerning ministers' salaries. According to this decree, each cabinet minister will receive up to a maximum of 15,000 tumans per month. The government spokesman then added that the former ministers and prime ministers are receiving salaries from various permanent and secret sources. They receive only 50,000 tumans each month from the prime minister's office, and the prime ministers themselves receive 70,000 tumans per month. At the same time they receive other salaries from other sources, among them the Royal Court and the NIOC.

The government spokesman said that the situation regarding the governors general and the managers of firms and government institutions, who in many cases receive between 80,000 and 100,000 tumans will soon be clarified.

With regard to certain shortages, the government spokesman said that we are not unaware of people's problems. Certain shortages such as the meat shortage are only temporary. There is sufficient meat in cold storage for a few months of public consumption; and only a misunderstanding prevented the committee members from permitting its release and consumption. He added that certain long-term agreements have been reached for meat supplies. He added that one of the goals of the provisional Islamic Revolution Government is to achieve self-sufficiency in the production of foodstuffs for the people. As the result of decisions to be taken, prices will be going down in the near future.

Regarding the fate of Engineer Monsef, the former managing director of the Kish Island complex, the government spokesman said that he stole a jet airplane worth $1 million and transferred three Kish Island accounts in America to his brother. The sums of these accounts have been received from the offices of the Kish Island reconstruction organization in Paris, San Francisco and London. And recently, Engineer Monsef has begun directing propaganda against the Iranian revolution from England. We hope to bring him back to Iran for trial, the spokesman said.

He also said that more than 1,000 contracts were concluded between the U.S. Government and the former regime of Iran. Each contract is worth up to millions and billions of dollars, and they must all be studied.

With respect to problems created for Iranians in America by the U.S. Post Office, the government spokesman said that we have filed a protest in this regard with the U.S. Embassy, and Mr Sullivan, the American ambassador in Tehran, yesterday informed us that these problems have been eliminated as of 15 March.

With regard to the issue of Kordestan, the government spokesman said: Reports that have been received indicate that shooting has resumed in Sanandaj. He added that counterrevolutionary individuals, in various ways and under different guises, want to undermine the tranquillity which has come about since the revolution. There were provocations by these individuals, a number attacked and occupied the governorate general and the radio and television station, and besieged the city's barracks, but the government has sent support forces to Sanandaj. If the activities of the counterrevolutionary forces continue, the government will crush any counterrevolutionary act with all its power. The government spokesman said: A number of people think that the army has been weakened, and that they can deal it a blow. They are wrong.

Unfortunately, the titles of imam and of committee are being misused. The counterrevolutionary individuals are disguising their objectives in this form. But the counterrevolutionaries will be crushed whatever guise they assume. The government spokesman said that our brave Muslim Kurdish brothers, who have shown great sacrifice in our revolution, do not commit any counterrevolutionary acts. Their demands are being studied by the government, and will be included in the discussion by the constituent assembly on the new constitution.

According to reports from our correspondent, a five-man team composed of two professors from the University of Tehran and three teachers from Tehran high schools, representing the Kurds of Sanandaj residing in Tehran, met with Mr Amir Entezam, deputy prime minister. The representatives of Kurds living in Tehran said to our reporter that they had come to the prime minister's office for some explanations regarding Kordestan's problems, and to dispel any negative effect which certain false reports received in Tehran about the situation in Sanandaj might have. These representatives asked the government to send a delegation to Kordestan to investigate current problems, and to include in this delegation Mr Saremoddin Sadeq Vaziri as their representative, so that this delegation can study the situation in Sanandaj carefully, and deliver the perpetrators of this crime, under whatever cover they have disguised themselves, to the competent authorities.

Mr Nasser Mojtehedi, a member of this team, said that the problems at Sanandaj began when people found out that the silo in this city had been emptied. This made them suspicious. And since they could get no convincing answer from the governor general's office or the silo office they called on the revolutionary committee to stop this happening. They also asked for weapons to protect the silo. But the supporters of another group also called on the committee and asked for ammunition. This resulted in a clash and shooting. They then went to the gendarmerie and the barracks to get weapons and assistance, where several people were killed in clashes. Mojtehedi said that, unfortunately, according to information from Kordestan, certain reports which were sent to the government and to Ayatollah Khomeyni were not accurate, and the people of Kordestan are disgusted that, instead of making a hasty decision, an informed group, including a representative of the imam--that is Mr Saremoddin Sadeq Vaziri--should be sent to Kordestan, he said.

Mr Khalil Rashidiyan, another member of the group, said that unfortunately those who were killed in Sanandaj were the same ones who were shouting and shedding their own blood for the sake of the Islamic republic. We ask that the counterrevolutionaries be crushed, but not those people who protested the emptying of the silo. He added that until 2300 last night, the number of people killed in the Sanandaj incident was 86, and the number of people injured was more than 200.

In reply to these representatives, Mr Amir Entezam said that the problem was quite simple and commonplace, but it ended in catastrophe, which is very unfortunate. He added that the government has silos in various parts of the country where wheat and barley are kept, and once in a while they are taken from one place to another. The removal of the wheat and barley from the silo was carried out by the government, and was done for no other purpose than that just described. He added that if right at the very beginning of the matter regarding the silos the representatives of the people of Sanandaj had reported the case to the office of the prime minister, the matter would have been cleared up, and this misunderstanding could have been prevented. But, unfortunately, we were informed only when certain people had attacked and taken over the radio and television station, and attempts had been made to attack the barracks.

Amir Entezam said that whenever the barracks--which are for the protection of the people of Kordestan--are attacked, we will severely crush the attackers. He further accepted the team's suggestion about sending a study group in which Mr Sadeq should participate.

According to the report from our correspondent, the government spokesman also made available to the reporters a bulletin regarding arrests, punishments and recent executions.

This bulletin states that with respect to arrests, punishments and executions which were carried out up to 14 March 1979 in Tehran and the provinces, involving the criminals of the period of dictatorship and recent days, and regarding the repeated contacts and protests by compatriots and those interested in Iran, and supporters of human rights, Amnesty International and the Red Cross who have all been asking for leniency and mercy, who consider that the executions and secret trials without defense lawyers or spectators contravene human rights and regulations on human rights, he gave the following explanations:

Considering the dreadful crimes and murders committed by many of those persons executed against the freedom-loving and honorable people of Iran, and also considering the level of the murders, bloodshed and destruction which have followed other political and social evolutions in the world, what is happening in Iran presently is forgiveable. The revolt and uprising by the people who for many years were subject to suppression and cruelty, and many of whom gave their lives and underwent torture, was not an easy matter for the leader of the revolution to control. Nevertheless, at the instruction of the imam, the revolutionary committees' actions have been stopped and, according to the regulations prepared by the government to be approved by the Revolutionary Council, arrests and interrogations as well as trials will be performed, and orders carried out, in complete observance of the legal and religious codes.

National Front Meeting

ID201438 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpt] At a grand meeting held at the invitation of the Iranian National Front in Azadi Square today, speakers paid tribute to the valuable services of Dr Mosaddeq for his nationalization of oil and his struggle against imperialism. Participants in this gathering, inspired by the lessons of history and aware of the requirements of the time and the feeling of all-round responsibility vis-a-vis the bloody revolution of the heroic Iranian nation, made speeches. Several National Front members who were staunch friends and firm costrugglers of Dr Mohammad Mosaddeq also spoke at the meeting.

Taleqani on Revolution Committees

LD201458 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Dr Taleqani, governor general of Chah Bahar and Bakhtiari, in an interview with the PARS correspondent in Shahry Kord, has explained the role of the Islamic revolution committee in the cities and villages of his province. He said: These committees will not be dissolved for the time being, and they will continue to assist the province's executive organs. Dr Taleqani said: These committees will not act regarding judicial and executive issues; but after following up the issues, they will introduce suspect persons to the relevant organs.

Celebrations in Khuzestan

D0201904 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 20 Mar 79 DO

[Text] This morning in Abadan there was a ceremony and speech in the Takhti stadium on the occasion of the anniversary of the nationalization of oil. The program was joined by a large group of people. They were addressed by Mr (Jalal Ganje'i), who is one of the religious figures in Abadan. He spoke of the nationalization of the oil industry and the political battles of the late Dr Mohammad Mosaddeq. According to reports from the National Iranian Oil Company, there were also speeches presented today in the (Saghil), (Karun) and [word indistinct] clubs.

Workers Replace Foreigners

D0201917 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 20 Mar 79 DO

[Text] All foreigners who were working in the (Bahrgan) petroleum company, whose operations are carried on in the Persian Gulf, have left the company. At the present time, the Iranians employed in the (Bahrgan) Company have replaced them, and it is felt that the company has no more need for foreign employees. A spokesman for the (Bahrgan) Company in Khorramshahr told PARS that the company is conducting operations and will soon begin delivering petroleum.

Ahvaz City Cleaning Program

D0201725 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 20 Mar 79 DO

[Summary] "The Municipality of Ahvaz has declared that today, Tuesday, is cleanup day in Ahvaz." The people of the city, with the support of the men of the 92d Armored Division, Ahvaz, took to the streets as of the first minutes of dawn this morning. There has been widespread and enthusiastic public response to this request from the municipality, and owners of trucks are asked to bring their vehicles. Some of the streets and neighborhoods of Ahvaz are piled high with garbage, and their trucks will be very useful in clearing away the debris.

Ahvaz Islamic Republic Party

D0201742 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1501 GMT 20 Mar 79 DO

[Summary] "Today, the Islamic Republic Party of Ahvaz [hizb-e jomhuri-ye eslami-ye howz-e ahvaz] has issued two announcements:

"1. In the name of the Almighty," brothers and sisters in Islam: Now that we have joined under the banner of unity and with the leadership of Imam Khomeyni we have driven evil from our midst, we must continue our righteous struggle. We must come to the aid of those who were impoverished under the oppression of the evil regime. Thus we invite all those who seek justice, and particularly the members of the Islamic Republic Party to perform their Islamic and moral duties in the first springtime of freedom by doing the following:

"A. giving presents and new year's gifts to the poor and deprived.

"B. giving assistance to the sick, and to those in pain.

"C. Paying visits to the homes of the martyrs who fell along the path to freedom."

"2. In the name of he who gives the correct path, before the spread of Islam and the proclamation of the Muslim faith in Iran it was the custom that each year the working class would present the fruits of its labor in payments made in kind to the lords of the palace at the time of the holiday." The Islamic faith has changed this inhuman practice, and it has instructed that the process should be reversed. In other words, the assistance should flow from above to below, from the rich to the deprived.

"The Islamic Republic Party hereby asks all brothers and sisters--especially the members of the party--to make payments in cash and in kind" to the oppressed and deprived class in Ahvaz. This change in behavior can become a humanitarian custom which will be achieved each year in a better and more accomplished fashion.

Masjed Soleyman Appointment

D0202016 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 20 Mar 79 D0

[Text] By the authority of Mr Ahmad Sadr Haj Seyyed-Javadi, the minister of the interior, Engineer ('Ali Reza Sharafi) has been appointed the provisional head of the Masjed Soleyman administration.

PLO Announces Memorial Ceremonies

D0202019 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1432 GMT 20 Mar 79 D0

[Text] This announcement was published by the office of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Ahvaz: In the name of the Almighty, 11 years have passed since the Al-Karamah war. On this occasion, the office of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Ahvaz has organized a meeting. The time will be Wednesday, 21 March, at 1030, and the place will be the physical training hall of Ahvaz University.

Ships Open to Public

D0202028 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 20 Mar 79 D0

[Text] This announcement was issued today by the commander of the national ship, the (Bayandur): It is hereby brought to the public's attention that the national ships, the (Bayandur) and the (Naqdi), which are anchored at pier 11 in Abadan and the Khorramshahr dock, will be open to the public for visits during the Naw-ruz holdiays. The schedule will extend from 21 March until 26 March in the mornings from 0900 to 1100, and in the afternoons from 1400 to 1800.

[Signed] The commander of the national ship, the (Bayandur), Lieutenant Mohammad Reza (Qa'imi).

Fighting in Sanandaj

LD201720 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 20 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Following the resumption of shooting in Sanandaj, the religious and national leaders in Sanandaj have called on the people to maintain calm and to refrain from attacking the city's garrison.

Taleqani Address to Kurds

LD201948 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The following is a message from His Eminence the Ayatollah Taleqani addressed to our Kurdish brothers:

[Taleqani--begin recording] In His Almighty name: Peace be upon our Iranian Muslim brethren and sisters who, by sacrificing their blood, have made the tree of the grand Islamic revolution blossom. Peace be upon all our Kurdish brothers and sisters, who throughout centuries of enduring the oppression and despotism of the satanical systems have preserved their genuine Islamic and Iranian nature, and side by side with their brothers in other parts of the realm have waged a holy war against oppression, suppression and plunder and, toward this end, have given a great many sacrifices and martyrs.

My Kurdish brothers and sisters, Iranian Muslims of Sanandaj, Mahabad, Baneh, Saqqez and all parts of Iranian Kordestan, with all our being we have known of the pressures and transgressions meted out exclusively to you by the domestic regime and its foreign masters during half a century, during the past half a century, and of your rights which have been usurped. We shared your trials and tribulations.

For us, Kurds, Persians, Turks, Baluchis, Shi'ites and Sunnites have no meaning except the fact that we are all one another's brothers, the sons of a single homeland and the members of the Islamic nation of Iran. If some of us have been treated with discrimination and difference, that was the outcome of the satanical government and system and the foreign masters. The hated past regime, in order to extend its overlordship and to suck the blood of the Muslim people of Iran, did not differentiate between the Kurds, Lors, Turks, Persians, Gilanis, townsfolk, villagers, women or men and considered all as its slaves.

Now that system has collapsed, and thanks to the zealous efforts of all our Muslim brothers and sisters throughout the country and the blood of the sons of the Islamic and Iranian nation, the sapling of the Islamic revolution has been sown. This sapling is young, and it is our hope that this young sapling blossom forth with justice, and genuine monotheistic freedom for all the sons of our homeland.

Under the new system, our hope is that by safeguarding the territorial integrity and the existence of the Islamic Iranian nation in this land, in every corner of our homeland people should run and control their interests with genuine power, and should themselves play a role in determining their destinies.

Why should the Kurdish-speaking people be forced to relinquish their culture and language? Why should Kordestan's products be sent elsewhere before fully satisfying the Kurdish people's needs? Why should officials who are uninformed of the trials and tribulations of the Kurdish people and who are strangers to the principles of Islamic justice and freedom govern our brothers and sisters there?

My Kurdish brothers and sisters, for the past few days I have been receiving unpleasant news from your territory which has caused me sorrow on this dawn of revolution and at the outset of this spring of freedom. And as of midday today, this sorrow has turned into a profound sadness. I have heard that what we all have been running away from is on the threshold of being put into effect, and that the firing of weapons and bullets between our national army and our brothers in Sanandaj has started and--God forbid--there is a possibility of blocking the paths of brotherhood and understanding.

If mistakes and a lack of control over one's feelings did not cause this shootout, then I do not deem it farfetched that the hand of the agents of the evil regime which has collapsed, who are now in flight and hiding in various nooks and corners of the nation, is responsible. On my behalf and on behalf of His Eminence the Iman Khomeyni, who is also deeply saddened and upset by these incidents, I call on you, my brothers and sisters, and also on the commander of the Sanandaj garrison and other officers and army, gendarmerie and police personnel and also on the revolution committees there to extinguish this fire as soon as possible, with full competence and intelligence, and to drive away the instigators, adventurists and irresponsible extremists and reestablish peace and tranquillity in your city, among your people and on your provoked and wounded feelings.

I decidedly call on the government to take urgent steps with regard to all your just demands within the framework of the territorial integrity of the Islamic nation of Iran. In this connection, I am ready with all my being to do anything necessary toward this end and, if necessary and if you so desire, to come to you together with other representatives of the leader of the Islamic revolution, His Great Eminence the Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni, and to acquaint ourselves at close quarters with your problems in order to accomplish for you what is in our power and what is dictated by Islamic right and justice. May God's peace, mercy and benedictions be upon you. [end recording]

Kurdish Leaders Order Cease-Fire

LD201958 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Mar 79 LD

[Text] According to a telephone dispatch from the PARS correspondent in Sanandaj, Haj Sheykh 'Ezzeddin Hoseyni, Ahmad Mohdizadeh, Mohammad Sadiq Kamangar and Hozaffar Mohammadi, the religious, national and political leaders of Sanandaj and of Kordestan Province, have agreed that all persons besieging the garrison should leave their trenches as soon as possible and should urgently and meticulously put into effect a cease-fire throughout Sanandaj.

On the other hand, at the request of Ahmad Mohdizadeh, the city's bakeries have announced their readiness to resume work in order to deliver bread to the Sanandaj people. As a result of the city's bakeries' closing and the problems which came about regarding the supply of bread, the people from the villages around Sanandaj have sent large quantities of foodstuffs to this city at the request of the Islamic Revolution Committee so that the people should not go hungry.

Army Appeal on Kordestan

LD202154 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 20 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The following communique has been issued by the General Staff of the Iranian Islamic National Army. The text of the communique is as follows:

In His Almighty name: Although it was announced that the Sanandaj garrison does not need help and cooperation from our dear compatriots and that it is directly capable of carrying out its national and Islamic tasks, nevertheless the information received indicates that a large number of struggling and zealous compatriots continue to leave for Kordestan to strengthen the garrisons there. While expressing gratitude to them and feeling proud of this solidarity and brotherliness of the nation for the national armed forces, preventing the departure of such compatriots has caused the revolutionary committees of the towns en route to Kordestan to be unable to do their tasks. I again call on these compatriots to give up and come back. Toward this end, I beg the compatriots to refrain from departing for Kordestan, since as the struggling Iranian nation was previously informed, the garrisons of the armed forces are fully capable of preventing aggression by elements duped by a few foreign agents.

[Signed] Chief of the General Staff of the Iranian Islamic Army, Major General Qarani.

March on Afghan Embassy

LD201714 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Mar 79 LD

[Text] It was reported by the news agencies that about 5,000 Afghan refugees and a number of Iranians supporting them marched to the Afghanistan Embassy in Tehran today and called for the overthrow of Taraki's regime in Afghanistan.

New Supreme Court

LD202024 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The Council of Ministers of the Provisional Islamic Government announced the names of the new members of the Supreme Court. The permanent members are as follows: Mehdi Sajjadiyan; Fathollah Banisadr; Dr Hasan Faqih Nakhjiri; Nur Shams Shahshahani; and Sheykh (Hosseyn) Tabataba'i.

Mohammad Hod and Jamal Tajammoli have been appointed as interim members, in order to form the new organization of the Supreme Court of the country.

Ayatollah Montazari's Speech

DO211004 Esfahan Domestic Service in Persian 1727 GMT 20 Mar 79 DO

[Summary] The following is a message from Ayatollah Montazari:

"In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate: Honorable Iranian nation, brothers and sisters in Islam, faithful nation of Iran. Your relentless and victorious struggle and your pure and dear blood have fertilized the land of Iran and brought the revolution to fruition. The foundation of the Islamic republic and the basis for the just rule of God has been put in place. With all that in mind, the honorable attention of the brothers and sisters is drawn to the following points which have been drafted in the spirit of friendly and brotherly appreciation:

"1. The protection and promotion of the achievements of the revolution and the rebuilding of the country will be assured on the basis of Islam and justice, which are applied with alertness, attention, unity and the solidarity of all of you, the informed nation.

The slightest error, or oversight, or expression of personal opinion, or the voicing of local or tribal interests, will constitute a step toward the destruction of the revolution and the victory of the enemy." Let us all work together for God and for the conscience and dignity of Islam and the nation.

2. In rebuilding the country and preparing the administrative structure, it is incumbent on all of us that we "strive to mobilize the security and military forces, including the army, city police and gendermarie, on the basis of Islamic principles. In this way, we will assist the state and we will recognize that we are not separate from the state. The state springs from ourselves. The dignity of the state is ours and that of our country." We do not want to see "childish personal interests" placed ahead of those of the entire nation. We must be careful and see to it that time is taken to build a strong government structure. Haste and impatience will not be in the interest of the people.

"3. It is the duty of the revolutionary government to think in revolutionary terms and to act as revolutionaries." All resources must be utilized to achieve the objectives of the nation. "The field of action is not just the central administration. The needs and interests of far-away places, the borders, the villages," all the people must be taken into consideration.

"4. The principles of brotherhood and cooperation must be observed in all institutions, cities and villages." Attention must be paid to the collapsed economic situation, and government services must be reestablished. "Owners of factories and businesses must consider the needs of their workers and their poor families. They should not just plan in terms of their personal material interests. Attention must be given to the fact that Islam is opposed to the exploitation of workers. The workers, too, must work harder to insure a brighter future for the country. They must avoid slackness, laziness and all obstruction of work."

5. The farmers are asked to tend to their crops and animals, and to protect the forests and environment.

6. During the revolution the committees were essential, but the time has come to cleanse the committees of undesirables. We must insure that the committees act according to Islamic principles and under the direction of the religious authorities. "Without a legal basis, no one is to be arrested," and no one's home is to be invaded without justification. Those arrested are not to be tortured, and they are to be treated in a humane fashion. If a committee is acting incorrectly, the problem must not be settled by local warfare. "In any case, the authority of the committees must be gradually transferred to the government offices and security forces." Then the people will refer to them to see their needs and the directives of the leader of the revolution accomplished.

7. Local problems must be settled on the local level through proper methods. The tendency of all local matters to be referred to Qom and to the leader of the revolution must be curtailed.

8. The writers and announcers must be unified and responsible. If they are interested in defending the Islamic nation, they must inform and encourage the people to vote in favor of an Islamic republic in the referendum.

"In conclusion I draw the attention of the victorious and Islamic nation of Iran to the sad circumstances in the brotherly, neighboring nation of Afghanistan." The regime in Afghanistan is engaged in inhuman and anti-Islamic activities, such as repressing the Islamic movement and arresting religious figures."

It is hoped that with the help of God Almighty "all Islamic nations will be freed from the claws of both Eastern and Western imperialism." Peace be upon you and the mercy of God and His blessings.

[Signed] 19 Rabi' ol-Sani 1399, Hoseyn 'Ali Montazari.

Nazih on Oil Day

ID202248 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 20 Mar 79 ID

[Text] In a message on the occasion of Oil Day, Hasan Nazih, chairman of the board of governors and managing director of the National Iranian Oil Company, referring to the crusading efforts and the historic speeches of the late Dr Mohammad Mosaddeq, and recalling the moral leadership of the Imam Khomeyni and his continuation of the path of Mosaddeq, said: Henceforth, oil resources will be utilized correctly and will be consumed when genuinely necessary. This is because oil and its revenues at present belong to the Iranian people, and the oil workers' efforts could develop our country and make Iranians happy and affluent. Describing the history of oil nationalization and the crusading work done to this end, Hasan Nazih added: With his faith and efforts toward the nationalization of the oil industry, Dr Mosaddeq pursued two great aims: He wanted to guarantee Iran's political independence in its true sense, to put an end to the unwarranted interference by foreigners in Iran's internal affairs, and to smash the chain of British colonialism, which had shackled our nation with hundreds of visible and invisible means in order to safeguard its interests.

Government Statement on Revolutionary Courts

ID202312 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 20 Mar 79 ID

[Text] The Provisional Government of the Iranian Islamic revolution issued a statement today in reply to the protests against the punishment meted out to the criminals of the regime of the era of despotism. The statement, which was placed at the disposal of domestic and foreign correspondents today, is as follows:

Pertaining to the arrests, punishments and executions which have taken place in Tehran and the provincial cities from the beginning of the revolution until 14 March 1979 in connection with the criminals and wrongdoers of the era of despotism and in recent days, and the repeated representations and protests made either by our compatriots or by those who are interested in Iran--these latter supporting human rights, Amnesty International and the Red Cross--to the government calling for a reduction in punishments and mercy, and considering the executions and manner of the trials in camera and without a defending lawyer, witnesses and public observers as contrary to the principles of humanity and the standards of human rights, we wish to announce in explanation that in view of the atrocious acts and barbarous and horrible slayings perpetrated by most of those executed against the freedom-seeking and honorable people of Iran on the one hand, and the level of the killings, bloodshed and destruction that have taken place in other political and social revolutions in the world on the other hand, what is taking place in Iran can be overlooked and is extremely insignificant.

The state of mutiny, inflammation and revolt among the people, among the ardent people who spent many long years under the harshest rigors and oppressions, and who have suffered great tortures and given their lives for freedom, was far too great to enable the revolution's leadership to stem its tide. Now that the work of revolutionary courts has been suspended at the imam's order, we hope that in accordance with regulations worked out by the government and endorsed by the Revolutionary Council to bring about the correct conditions, arrests, interrogations, trials and sentencing will be carried out in the best possible manner while fully observing the correct religious laws and legal standards.

DELEGATION LED BY TALEQANI LEAVES TEHRAN FOR KORDESTAN

LD211238 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Mar 79 LD

[Text] We will begin our detailed newscast today with an announcement by the imam's publicity bureau:

In the name of the Almighty, following the tragic incidents in Kordestan, which are a clear sign of the futile efforts of counterrevolutionary elements, on orders from His Great Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni, the leader of the Iranian Islamic Revolution, a delegation was dispatched this morning to Sanandaj. The delegation, composed of the most distinguished revolutionary figures, namely His Eminence Ayatollah Taleqani, Ayatollah Beheshti and Hojjatol Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, is assigned to meet with the national and religious leaders of the region and study at close quarters the region's problems and the demands of our Kurdish brothers.

AYATOLLAH SHARI'AT-MADARI INTERVIEWED BY TURKISH PAPER

NC170929 Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish 16 Mar 79 p 6 NC

[CUMHURIYET correspondent Ali Sirmen interview with Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari--date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] A referendum will soon be held in Iran in connection with the establishment of an Islamic republic, and work will start on drafting a new constitution. You, as well as Ayatollah Khomeyni, have said that the Islamic republic in Iran will be different from Islamic administrations in other countries. In what way will this republic be different from the others--from that of Libya, for example?

[Answer] The Iranian Islamic republic will be different from Islamic administrations in other countries because we will have free elections. The Saudis, for example, do not have free elections, nor do the Libyans. Here, in Iran, the people will vote freely and they will send their representatives to the legislature. The representatives will vote for what is good for the state. The organs of the Iranian Islamic republic will be national: The army, the gendarmerie, the police--all will be national.

The difference between our Islamic republic and the others will be that we will have free elections.

[Question] You say "free elections," but the referendum has an aspect that does not imply freedom. Why are you not granting the people the right to choose from a number of alternatives? Why are the people being asked to say "yes" or "no" to an Islamic republic?

[Answer] In my opinion--or rather if the government would endorse my opinion--I would ask the people: "What kind of republic do you want?" Let the people say freely what they like. If they want an Islamic republic, let us have an Islamic republic; if they want something else, let us have that.

[Question] Why is it that you want an Islamic republic and not a secular one?

[Answer] The secular republic is a European concept. It is suitable for Europe's structure. We want something that is suitable for our structure. All the people in Iran are Muslims; our martyrs are Muslims. They sacrificed their lives for Islam; our people died for this cause. That is why--because we are all Muslims--we want an Islamic republic, one that will be based on free elections.

[Question] You are saying that there will be free elections in the Iranian Islamic republic. Will there also be freedom of thought and a genuine freedom to express one's ideas? Will the communists, the Tudeh for example, be able to express and disseminate their ideas freely?

[Answer] Yes, there will be freedom for everybody. Everybody will be able to say what he thinks and to enter the elections. Let the Tudeh say what it thinks as well. Let it appear on television and explain its views to the people--just as long as no one oppresses the Muslim people or uses force against them.

[Question] Who will own the factories in the Iranian Islamic republic? Will they belong to the workers or to the bosses?

[Answer] Let the factories remain in the possession of their owners. Let everybody earn what he or she is earning. Let those earning little have little, and let those earning plenty have plenty. The communists are saying that all earnings--everything--must be divided. We are not saying that. Everybody must be remunerated according to his work so that he will want to work more. Karl Marx says in DAS CAPITAL that in the old days capitalists would make a worker work for 18 hours and pay him for 6. Such a thing will not happen with us. Under Islam, everybody will receive the value of his work; that is what Islam says.

[Question] How will the banks work in Iran without interest?

[Answer] There will be no interest rates in the Iranian Islamic republic, but banks will continue to function. The people will deposit their savings in the banks, which will use this money in business and trade. The depositors will share the profits. The banks will also grant loans, but there will be no interest levied, because interest is the beginning of all evil.

[Question] There is a movement to grant autonomy to the Kurds under the Iranian republic. The Kurds themselves have demanded this. In this situation, what will happen to the brotherly Azerbaijanis?

[Answer] If the Kurds are granted autonomy, then the Azerbaijanis will want the same. Khuzestan will want it as well--and there is oil there. The Baluchis will also demand autonomy. The Provisional Government cannot handle this; a permanent government must do so.

If Kordestan is granted autonomy, the other provinces will have difficulties with oil. If autonomy is granted, every province will have a claim to its own produce. You understand what I mean, don't you?

I would say, let the government relax a little and hold back somewhat. Let the Kurds form their own assembly and speak their own language, but let money and revenues flow into a single treasury.

DER SPIEGEL Interview

DW200815 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 19 Mar 79 pp 141-142 DW

[Interview with "Khomeyni rival" Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari, date and place not given]

[Text] SPIEGEL: Ayatollah, you helped chase the shah out of the country and dismantle the feudal regime. Now it looks as though the revolution is beginning to get out of control. Are you and the Bazargan government still masters of the situation at all?

Shari'at-Madari: We have difficulties, I admit. However, we must not leave the revolution to itself. Enemies are lurking everywhere. There are many bad elements trying to channel the revolution in their direction.

SPIEGEL: The extreme left?

Shari'at-Madari: Yes, primarily that one. But as long as we have the intellectuals on our side we will retain the upper hand.

SPIEGEL: It will not be easy for you when you begin dismantling basic rights such as equal rights for women.

Shari'at-Madari: We are not doing that. In our country, women have the same rights as men. This is written in the Koran.

SPIEGEL: Ayatollah Khomeyni, however, interprets the Koran differently. He wants to introduce polygamy and force the women to wear the chador.

Shari'at-Madari: The Koran provides that young women cover their body in such a way that the contours can no longer be determined and that only the face is left visible. However, this need not be the chador. We accept any piece of clothing which will meet these requirements.

SPIEGEL: You have abolished the family law issued by the shah. This means that divorce again becomes a one-sided affair of the man.

Shari'at-Madari: No, to the Muslim matrimony is a treasure very much worthy of protection. But if it happens that one spouse becomes ill, then the husband may get a divorce.

SPIEGEL: But not the wife?

Shari'at-Madari: Under certain circumstances the wife, too, may file suit for divorce. Islam tries to prevent divorces at any cost. But there are situations in which it is better to separate the spouses, such as a physician sometimes may be forced to amputate a diseased member.

SPIEGEL: What about polygamy? Will a man be allowed to have four wives in your Islamic republic?

Shari'at-Madari: This is an often misunderstood commandment. A man may have four wives only when he can be equally just to all of them. This means he may not give preference to any one of them, and he must be able to provide for them. Besides, this commandment does not play a great role in practice. Just try to find those men in Iran who have four wives; perhaps one in a thousand.

SPIEGEL: Because polygamy was prohibited under the shah.

Shari'at-Madari: No, it is also a commandment of commonsense. Yet there are also justified reasons in favor of polygamy. It may happen that the first wife is sterile. In that case, a man should take another wife in addition.

SPIEGEL: And the third and the fourth?

Shari'at-Madari: Oh well, there are many men who are equipped with such tremendous sexual potency that they cannot be satisfied with one or two. Should they preferably frequent a brothel?

SPIEGEL: There are also women who do not feel satisfied by their men. Then they, too, should be allowed to pick a second or third husband.

Shari'at-Madari: These needs are nonexistent in women. And just think of war times when you often have more women than men. After all, you have had that in Germany. If the men do not look after the supernumerary women this is bound to end up in mass prostitution.

SPIEGEL: Ayatollah, the international commission of jurists has objected to the mass executions of the past few weeks. Do you deem justified the manner in which capital punishment is imposed by the dozen?

Shari'at-Madari: Incriminating and exonerating evidence is, of course, carefully examined before a verdict is handed down.

SPIEGEL: Such a trial hardly lasts longer than 30 minutes on the average. Do you call this care?

Shari'at-Madari: I do not know the proceedings in detail. All I know is that the Islamic courts are endeavoring to pass judgment on the basis of Islamic law.

SPIEGEL: The Islamic law also provides for heavy bodily punishment such as stoning, chopping off hands and so forth. Some of your Islamic courts already impose flogging for playing cards and adultery.

Shari'at-Madari: There is still confusion here and there about the appropriate measure of punishment to be imposed. What has happened so far need not necessarily be trailblazing.

SPIEGEL: Ayatollah, will the mullahswithdraw from politics in the Islamic republic?

Shari'at-Madari: We will largely keep aloof. But we will always be prepared to give advice, of course. As long as the government does everything right, we will not interfere.

SPIEGEL: The Bazargan government has announced that it will cut oil extraction to half the original quantity. How do you propose to make up for the losses?

Shari'at-Madari: This was somewhat rash. We will adapt extraction to the financial needs of the nation. Maybe we will extract only half of what we used to produce, maybe just as much, or maybe even more.

SPIEGEL: And who can buy oil from you, only governments or also private companies?

Shari'at-Madari: Whoever can pay for it.

SPIEGEL: The Federal Republic is one of the three most significant trade partners of your country...

Shar 'at-Madari: It could even improve this position. Indeed, we do not regard West Germany as a neocolonialist or imperialist power, as we do other countries.

SPIEGEL: Will you also abide by the commitments which the shah has undertaken toward the West Germans, for instance the agreement on the construction of two nuclear power plants at Bushahr?

Shari'at-Madari: Yes, of course. Only we must examine whether the funds will be adquate. If the project proves to be sensible after review, and if we can pay for it, then construction work at Bushahr will continue.

SPIEGEL: And what will happen with the German industrial participations which the shah purchased?

Shari'at-Madari: The shah bought them to his own advantage. We must now examine whether this advantage also is the advantage of the nation.

SPIEGEL: The Krupp shares yielded profits.

Shari'at-Madari: If they keep doing that, we will keep them. If not, Krupp can have its shares back.

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER OUTLINES REASONS FOR JOINING NONALINED

LD202130 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1617 GMT 20 Mar 79 LD

["Pool" item]

[Text] Tehran, March 20--The Iranian Foreign Ministry has confirmed an exchange of correspondence with several non-aligned governments, concerning the Iranian demand to be allowed to join the non-aligned movement and attend its next summit.

In an interview with the PRENSA LATINA Monday, the Iranian deputy foreign minister, Ahmad (Salamatin), set out the reasons for this decision and explained the essential points of the Provisional Government's new foreign policy. "The essential point is that Iran has had a bad experience with military blocs and the pacts to which Iran had adhered were disastrous" the minister said and added: "Now it is believed that Iran's foreign policy must obey its home policy aiming at recovering national wealth, obtaining political, economic, military and cultural independence, and eliminating the last effects of foreign domination in the country." Also, the Iranian foreign policy will be "against racial discrimination, against violation of human rights and for the reestablishment of just international relations."

NVOI CALLS FOR OPEN TRIALS, SCORES U.S. ARMING GULF STATES

TA201833 [Editorial Report TA] The Clandestine National Voice of Iran in Azerbaijani to Iran at 1945 GMT on 17 March carries a commentary entitled "Try the Criminals in Open Courts." The commentary says that "no power can prevent the trial by Imam Khomeyni's revolutionary courts of those who for so many years, and especially over the past 25 years, shed the blood of thousands of Iranian strugglers and plundered the wealth of the nation, and those who betrayed the nation and its fortunes in the interests of imperialist countries led by the United States."

After stressing that "putting criminals and traitors on trial is one of the national and democratic revolution's important tasks," the commentary says: "Persons accused of having committed crimes and treason during the reign of the ousted, evil and blood-shedding regime are being interrogated and tried in secret courts, and the people and even the Provisional Revolutionary Government are being informed about the trials after the sentences passed by the courts are executed." The commentary says: "Both our country's people and progressive mankind, and specialized and creditable legal organizations struggled against illegal courts for years on end. Finally, this means of crime and oppression was destroyed. Consequently, now the people have every right to ask: Why are the enemies of the revolution and traitors and assassins being tried in secret courts? Why is it that the people are not informed on the process of the trials held by the revolutionary Islamic courts? Why is it that even the state officials and radio, television and press reporters are not allowed to attend the trials?"

The commentary adds: "The trials of the enemies of the revolution in secret courts undermine the honor of the Iranian nation's revolution both at home and abroad, and blemish the revolution's achievements and its significance. If open courts are established and trials are held in such courts, the people will become more familiar with the crimes and treasons committed by the ousted regime's leaders and by those who today are also committing such crimes. This can also help people increase their vigilance against conspiracies schemed by the enemies of the revolution."

After noting that in a televised address Prime Minister Bazargan also expressed his disapproval of the secret courts, and that in a decree Imam Khomeyni clearly stated that he sees no need for the continuation of trials in secrecy, the commentary says: "Our people want the trial and punishment of the enemies of the revolution quickly and firmly in open revolutionary courts."

The radio then carries another commentary entitled "The U.S. Appoints New Gendarmes in the Region." After noting that the collapse of the shah's regime has deprived the United States of its political and military influence in Iran, the commentary refers to the situation in the Persian Gulf countries, and says: "Our country's victorious national and military revolution has had a great impact on the Persian Gulf countries, where for years on end peoples have been struggling to free themselves from U.S. sub-jugation and from rotten monarchic regimes. The United States is fully aware of this situation, and it wants to maintain its political and strategic interests in the area by keeping the area's sultans and shaykhs in power."

The commentary says that Brown offered to sell the gulf countries, and especially Saudi Arabia, great amounts of arms "in return for oil dollars," and also asked them to employ more American advisers. It says: "Brown also said that the United States will send military forces to the Persian Gulf if its oil interests in the area are threatened. Undoubtedly Brown made such a statement after Carter's approval. Now one should ask Mr Carter: Who has given the United States the right to send military forces to independent countries? It seems that the United States still does not want to take a warning lesson from the consequences of its military adventure in Vietnam and its military presence in Iran." After noting that as part of this policy, the United States has been sending warships to the Persian Gulf, the commentary says: "Washington believes that Egypt and Israel will in the future act as the gendarmes of the area."

The commentary concludes: "The United States has intensified its military and adventurist activities with the aim of acting as the gendarme--an abominable thing--of the Persian Gulf states and crushing their (?liberation) movements in the process. As a result of the panicky U.S. efforts to strengthen its influence and military presence in the Persian Gulf, the peoples of the gulf states have expanded their struggles for freedom and independence and for ending imperialist exploitation."

AFGHANISTAN

KARACHI QUOTES KABUL ON OUSTING OF IRANIAN CONSUL GENERAL

BK201717 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 20 Mar 79 BK

[Text] Radio Kabul says the consul general of Iran in Herat has been declared persona non grata by the Afghan Government. The radio says he has been asked to leave Afghanistan within 48 hours.

AFP REPORTS ON FIGHTING AT HERAT IN WEST

BK201708 Hong Kong AFP in English 1700 GMT 20 Mar 79 BK

[By Jean-Francois le Mounier]

[Text] Kabul, March 20 (AFP)--Herat in west Afghanistan has been the battleground for a growing insurrection in the past few days but it is still difficult to gauge its exact strength, commentators here said today.

Telephone links between Herat and the capital were cut several days ago. The main Kandahar-Herat road is also cut--apparently after the destruction of a bridge over Farah Rod River 200 km (125 miles) south of Herat--and Afghan truck drivers are having to turn back towards Kabul.

The capital is meanwhile calm and national radio has made no recent reference to developments in Herat, the country's third most important town.

But Afghans here discovered something was happening when on March 18 Radio Kabul accused Iran of having sent 4,000 soldiers disguised as civilians into Herat to stir up trouble.

Informed Western sources here believe that at least part of the town is in rebel hands and that some government troops have joined the insurrection. Major clashes have broken out between the rebels and troops loyal to the Afghan Government, the sources said. Both sides have tanks at their disposal and government forces have brought in aircraft, they added. This is the first urban fighting on this scale to take place since the April 27 revolution, and the first time that Muslim rebels have been armed with modern heavy and light weapons.

The government, obviously worried about the security of foreign residents, yesterday informed all diplomatic missions here that their nationsl were henceforth banned from going more than 60 km (37 miles) from Kabul. There are no restrictions however on traffic heading for the Pakistan border on the Kabul-Torkham road.

The government is also trying to scale down the traditional influx of Afghans to Mazar-i Sharif in the north for the national new year which starts tomorrow. Authorities fear that opposition forces could try to trigger further violence as several hundred thousand people rally for the annual religious celebrations.

Two demonstrations staged to protest against Iran's alleged intervention in Afghan affairs meanwhile passed without incident here yesterday.

BANGLADESH

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS MALTREAT MINISTERS, CLASH WITH POLICE

BK201407 Dacca Domestic Service in Bengali 1200 GMT 20 Mar 79 BK

[Text] Rajshahi University has been declared closed for an indefinite period and students have been asked to vacate the hostels. A pressnote issued by the Ministry of Education in Dacca today said that for some time a group of students had been calling for the removal of the vice chancellor along with other unjust demands.

A one-man inquiry committee, consisting of Justice (Abdul Wadul Chowdhury) of the Supreme Court, was set up to inquire into the incident, which forced the vice chancellor to sign a letter of resignation. The inquiry is to start in Rajshahi today.

Meanwhile, S.A. Bari, minister for manpower development, and Abdul Baten, minister of state for education, visited the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital last night to see the conditions of some students who resorted to a hunger strike to press their demands. Later, the ministers went to the Rajshahi University campus to see the conditions of other hunger-striking students. There they were forcibly and wrongfully confined to the university administrative building by a large number of students. The students demanded the immediate removal of the vice chancellor and maltreated the ministers while keeping them under confinement until morning.

When the police entered the university campus to rescue the ministers in the morning, they were attacked by the students. The police had to resort to baton charges and fired several rounds in the air in self-defense. In the clash 11 students, 5 policemen and 2 teachers were injured. Seven persons, including six students, were arrested.

The pressnote said that the situation is now under control.

INDIA

VAJPAYEE SPEAKS ON U.S. PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN

BK201507 Delhi ISI in English 1432 GMT 20 Mar 79 BK

[Text] The following statement was made by the minister of external affairs in response to a calling attention notice in the Lok Sabha on 20 March regarding the reported proposal of the U.S. to station a new naval fleet in the Indian Ocean and to force a new military alliance with Saudi Arabia and Pakistan:

Mr Speaker, Sir, on 12 March I had expressed our concern in this house over reports of the U.S. Government despatching a carrier-led naval task force to the Indian Ocean and the gulf area. Honorable members are understandably concerned at this move, especially in view of some indications that after the recent events in Iran and Afghanistan the U.S. Government is considering the option of increasing the U.S. military presence in the region.

We are maintaining a close watch over the developing situation in the Indian Ocean and the gulf area. We have, however, so far not received any confirmation of the reports that a new military alliance involving Saudi Arabia and Pakistan is being forged. Recent trends like the disintegration of the CENTO would suggest that military alliances involving developing countries do not serve the declared purposes. On the contrary, such arrangements invite counter efforts, create instability and come in the way of cooperative relations. Moreover, they also tend to distort internal politics with resultant upheavals as happened recently in some countries of this region.

In this connection it can be reiterated that stability can only be achieved through regional functional and economic cooperation between countries acting in consonance with their national interests. Problems which exist can best be resolved with mutual respect through peaceful dialogues as has happened recently with the Arab League mediation between the two Yemens. Increased presence by any major foreign power would inevitably bring forth a rival build up and is bound to result in further tension. We firmly believe that the best way to ensure normal peaceful maritime commerce, including the flow of oil through this region, is to help the countries of the region to develop their economies and resolve their mutual problems.

Recent events have made it more than clear that increased military and naval strength in the area and an enhanced superpower presence could have adverse consequences and add to the tensions in the region which would be of concern to the entire world.

The United Nations is already seized [as received] of this problem of making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace. A conference of littoral and hinterland states of the Indian Ocean and the gulf is to be held in the coming months.

In keeping with the declared purpose of extending detente to all regions of the world and what we believe is the considered inclination of the countries around the Indian Ocean and the gulf, we cannot but caution against any new military arrangement involving superpowers or nonregional countries. We recognise this as a vital area for the world economy. Enlightened policies would point to defusing tensions rather than adding to them by new forms of multilateral militarism.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON KOSYGIN VISIT

For the apparent text of the USSR-India communique signed during Kosygin's 9-15 March visit to India published in Moscow PRAVDA on 16 March, see the South Asia section of the 21 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

MAURITIUS PRIME MINISTER PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT

BK170808 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 17 Mar 79 BK

[Text] The Mauritius prime minister, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, called on the president, Mr Sanjiva Reddy, in New Delhi this morning. He was with him for half an hour. The external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee, had a meeting with the visiting dignitary. Sir Seewoosagur will have talks with the prime minister, Mr Desai, later today.

Earlier, the Mauritius prime minister was given a warm welcome on his arrival in New Delhi this morning after an overnight stay in Bombay. He was received at the airport by the prime minister, the external affairs minister, the minister of state for external affairs and others. The All-India Institute of Medical Sciences will confere the honorary fellowship of the institute on the distinguished visitor at a convocation this evening.

Sir Seewoosagur, who was earlier scheduled for a weeklong visit, is cutting short his stay because of pressing problems at home. He leaves for home tonight.

Talks With Vajpayee

BK171538 Delhi ISI in English 1513 GMT 17 Mar 79 BK

[Text] The Indo-Mauritius joint commission will meet in New Delhi on April 3 and 4 to discuss bilateral matters of trade and commerce and scientific and cultural exchanges, reports PTI. This was officially announced after talks between the Mauritius prime minister, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, and the external affairs minister, A.B. Vajpayee, in New Delhi on March 17.

During their 40-minute meeting, Sir Seewoosagur and Vajpayee exchanged views on the situation in Africa, including the Uganda-Tanzania conflict. Topics concerning the nonaligned movement also came up for discussion. Vajpayee's China visit and the visit of Soviet Premier Aleksey Kosygin also figured briefly in their conversation.

Leaves for Home

BK180800 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 18 Mar 79 BK

[Text] The prime minister of Mauritius, Dr Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, left Bombay for home this morning at the end of his visit to this country.

IRAN ASSURES PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT IN OIL SUPPLY

BK191137 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 19 Mar 79 BK

[Text] Iran has assured India that its crude requirements will be given preferential treatment. The petroleum minister, Mr Bahuguna, told the upper house of Parliament that the discussions on early resumption of Iranian crude supplies to India are now underway.

The minister said the revised rolling plan for the oil and natural gas commission for the period 1978-79 to 1982-83 envisages an outlay of over 98 billion rupees for oil exploration and the development of oil and gas.

STEPS TAKEN TO CHECK ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION FROM BANGLADESH

BK191135 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 19 Mar 79 BK

[Text] The union government is considering proposals to recruit additional armed police personnel for border patrolling to check illegal entry of foreigners. The minister of state for home affairs, Mr Dhanik Lal Mandal, told the lower house of Parliament that the problem of influx had historic reasons and was a continuing phenomena. Sometimes there are humanitarian grounds on which these people come in. But the government is fully aware of the gravity of the issue. Illegal immigration from Bangladesh never stopped completely. A number of border outposts have been set up and constant vigilance is being maintained both by the central and state authorities to minimize and ultimately prevent illegal immigration.

DESAI INFORMS PARLIAMENT OF SPACE, NUCLEAR PROGRAMS

BK211001 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 21 Mar 79 BK

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Morarji Desai, informed the Lok Sabha today that the country is expected to become self-reliant in launching (?near) earth orbit satellites by 1985-86.

In a written reply, he said nearly 1,000 Indian scientists are engaged in the design, development and fabrication of spacecraft. India has sought cooperation for launching spacecraft from USSR, the United States and the European space agency.

In reply to another question, the prime minister said that the reserves of natural uranium are adequate for the level of nuclear power program currently envisaged. Mr Desai said in fast breeding reactors uranium-238 can be converted into plutonium-239 and thorium-232 into uranium-233, both of which are fissile.

DEFENSE MINISTRY REPORT CALLS FOR 'ABSOLUTE' PREPAREDNESS

BK180324 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Mar 79 BK

[Text] The Defense Ministry, in its annual report for 1978-79, has said that India's geostrategic situation calls for absolute defense preparedness at all times. This has to remain one of the imperatives of the country's national policy.

The report says that instability and uncertainty in certain parts of the country's neighborhood and a somewhat disproportionate buildup of military capability in other parts has necessitated full defense preparedness to safeguard the country's national security.

The report, which has been placed before Parliament, also points out that there have been some positive gains in our pursuit of peace and greater understanding with immediate neighbors. During the year under review there has been considerable progress in the development of defense equipment and some of them have reached the bulk production stage. The accent in defense plans and programs is on replacement and modernization, on greater firepower and mobility, and modern communication.

SANJAY GANDHI FILES APPEAL ON CONVICTION

BK200955 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 20 Mar 79 BK

[Text] Mr Sanjay Gandhi today filed an appeal with the Delhi high court against his conviction in the Kissa Kursi Ka case by the sessions court. The appeal is likely to be heard tomorrow.

DALAI LAMA SPOKESMAN ON PRC'S RELEASE OF TIBETANS

OW201153 Tokyo KYODO in English 0839 GMT 20 Mar 79 OW

[Text] New Delhi, 20 Mar (KYODO)--The Dalai Lama's Tibetan government in exile welcomed Tuesday the release of 376 Tibetan prisoners by Chinese authorities, but advised Beijing to release forthwith "several thousand Tibetans languishing in jails in Tibet."

"If the Chinese claim that the March 17 release was an expression of leniency (as claimed by NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY), Beijing leaders should do the same with Tibetan prisoners in Kham and Amdo (eastern Tibet) areas of Tibet," Tashi Wongdi, spokesman for the Dalai Lama here, told KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

Wongdi said that the present batch of 376 prisoners were released from central Tibet "but the fact is that the real anti-China (?struggle) had taken place in eastern Tibet and our information suggests that there are several thousand Tibetan prisoners in Kham and Amdo areas of eastern Tibet."

Analysts on Tibetan affairs here said that the Chinese action of freeing the prisoners was part of latest change in the Chinese policy to bring back the Dalai Lama and more than 100,000 Tibetans who fled Tibet in 1959 and sought asylum in India, Switzerland, the United States, Canada, Japan and Great Britain.

There are 72 central prisons and 30 small prisons in central Tibet alone "and there will be more than 100 in the Amdo and Kham areas in eastern Tibet," Tashi Wongdi said. The five largest prisons in Tibet are Dapchi, Sangyip, Kongpo-Nyinto, Nyethang and Powo Tramo, Wongdi said. There are five major prisoners [as received] in addition to those mentioned in Lhasa city alone, he claimed.

Wongdi said that according to Tibetans who fled China in November last year, though some leniency was shown to Tibetans in central Tibet, "the condition in eastern Tibet is different... The Chinese do not believe the Tibetans belonging to the Amdo and Kham areas."

PAKISTAN

FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN ON MOSCOW ACCUSATIONS

BK201653 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Mar 79 BK

[Text] A spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed surprise today at the article in the Moscow newspapers PRAVDA and IZVESTIYA alleging that Afghan refugees in Pakistan were allowed to carry out hostile activities against the Government of Afghanistan and that rebel radio stations in Pakistan were engaged in propaganda against Afghanistan. The articles also alleged that the Karakoram Highway was being used for the shipment of weapons, explosives and propaganda material from China for the organization of subversive activity in Afghanistan. It has also been alleged that Chinese instructors are training Afghan guerrillas.

Describing these allegations as totally baseless, the spokesman expressed regret that false and mischievous charges had been made in complete disregard of facts. He said the government was aware of wild rumors being circulated, both inside and outside Pakistan, regarding the Afghan refugees who had been given asylum in Pakistan on purely humanitarian grounds, and he deplored attempts by interested parties to create discord between two neighboring countries.

In this context, the spokesman drew attention to the statement made by the president in response to newsmen in Peshawar yesterday in which he had said that the Afghan refugees were allowed to enter Pakistan on humanitarian grounds and on the condition that they not use Pakistani soil for any activity which might jeopardize Pakistan-Afghan relations. The president also recounted various steps taken by the Government of Pakistan as gestures of goodwill toward the Government of Afghanistan.

The spokesman said Pakistan was firmly committed to the policy of good neighborliness, mutual cooperation and noninterference in other's internal affairs in its relations with its neighbors and in its bilateral relations with Afghanistan. Pakistan's efforts to develop closer relations with Afghanistan as well as the USSR could be further strengthened by its withdrawal from CENTO, which opened new possibilities in this direction. He expressed the hope that these positive factors would be specially noted by those who stood for the promotion of friendly relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan and wished the two countries well.

HAQ SPEAKS ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, BHUTTO CASE

BK201239 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Mar 79 BK

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that the Kashmir issue is the only obstacle to the speedy restoration of normal relations between Pakistan and India. In an interview with a U.S. columnist he said if a decision on Kashmir could be reached today, he is confident the people of both countries would extend friendship to each other along the borders. He emphasized it would be wrong to think Pakistan, being a small country, would barter away its interests or forgo its principles.

The president did not agree with the U.S. columnist's view that the Kashmir issue between India and Pakistan could be compared to the Alsace-Lorraine issue between France and Germany about which nobody is concerned now. The president said neither Germany nor France or anybody's economy, solidarity or security is touched by Alsace-Lorraine. Such a situation can be kept in mind, however, in light of (?relations) between East and West Punjab. People have now forgotten the upheavals caused by the partition of Punjab, but they cannot ignore Kashmir as it is the lifeline of Pakistan. Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that according to the UN resolution, the people of Kashmir must have the right to choose between Pakistan and India in a plebiscite. Pakistan's only desire is that the people of Kashmir be given this right.

The president expressed his views on Pakistan's relations with Afghanistan, Iran, the United States, the Soviet Union and China. He said whatever happened in Afghanistan and Iran is strictly their own internal affair. In this connection he recalled his visit to Afghanistan and said the Afghan leaders responded very well to the hand of friendship extended by Pakistan. Pakistan's relations with Afghanistan continue to be friendly and we have no problems with that country. On events in Iran, the president said if anything the events have drawn Iran closer to Pakistan, as both countries are involved in practically shaping their societies in accordance with Islam. He said the changes in Iran will have no ill effect on Pakistan; on the contrary, it will have a very positive effect.

The president said that as a developing country Pakistan needs assistance from friendly countries in terms of materials and technology. The United States is one country which can provide such assistance. As an ally, Pakistan's relations with the United States have been friendly and the country expects closer ties with its friends and allies. The president reiterated that Pakistan does not want to confront the United States or the Soviet Union. He said Pakistan is interested in developing its relations with the Soviet Union provided they are fostered on the basis of mutual benefit to both countries and they do not affect anyone else. He said if China is our friend it does not mean Pakistan should have no relations with the Soviet Union. Similarly, fostering relations with the Soviet Union does not mean Pakistan is moving against China.

Dwelling on Pakistan's domestic affairs, the president said the 10 February announcement [on the Islamization of laws] brought about feelings of pride among the people. Now that we have started to implement the Islamic order in practice, a feeling has developed that we are moving along the correct path.

Referring to the Bhutto case, he stressed again that this is absolutely a criminal case which has been given a political tone. He reiterated that the law should be allowed to take its course no matter who is involved.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISER AGHA SHAHI LEAVES FOR TURKEY

BK190548 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 19 Mar 79 BK

[Text] The adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi, left Karachi for Ankara this morning on a brief visit to Turkey at the invitation of the Turkish foreign minister, Mr Gunduz Okcun. Mr Agha Shahi will exchange views on matters of regional and bilateral interest with the Turkish foreign minister.

GOVERNMENT OKAYS NON-BENGALIS' REPATRIATION FROM BANGLADESH

BK190522 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 18 Mar 79 BK

[Text] The Pakistan Government has agreed to the repatriation of 18,000 non-Bengalis from Bangladesh in addition to 3,900 persons who came over to Pakistan on their own during 1975-77.

An official spokesman told newsmen in Rawalpindi this afternoon that under the tripartite agreement between Pakistan, Bangladesh and India, about 108,000 persons were repatriated in the first phase with the help of the UN Commission for Refugees. The first phase of the operation came to a standstill in 1975 when the commission had exhausted its funds. The spokesman said there has been no response from the developed countries for making the necessary funds available to the commission. The Pakistan Government has appealed to certain Muslim countries like Saudi Arabia, UAE, Libya, Bahrain and Qatar for help.

He said the repatriation of 18,000 remaining non-Bengalis is expected to cost about $3 million. He said before their arrival the government is making necessary arrangements for their accommodation and economic rehabilitation under the directive of the chief martial law administrator. In this regard, fully developed plots for 4,500 families are being made ready at Karachi in the Punjab and the NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province]. This project will be completed by May next. Instructions have also been given to the provincial governments and the federal agencies for their economic rehabilitation. He said former government employees from among the repatriates will be absorbed in various departments. Others, who are either businessmen or technicians, will be rehabilitated accordingly.

The spokesman said the repatriates who came in the first phase were provided 4,900 housing units in 49 colonies set up for them. They were provided loans amounting to 67.3 million rupees. Replying to a question, the spokesman said the government also permitted the repatriation of nearly 240 families from India.